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Tom Cruise has a new girl

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3 killed in attacks on tourists in Cairo, Egypt

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Toney outpoints Ruiz for WBA heavyweight title

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Breeding site for rare RP deer put up

Business / B1

Gov't trains guns on revenue agencies

Father of RP labor unionism honored

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

VIGAN CITY—As thousands of workers gathered yesterday to commemorate International Labor Day, officials held simple rites here to honor Isabelo de los Reyes, the man who started it all in the country.

FATHER/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

House now wants power VAT-exempt, says Joker

By TJ Burgonio
and Michael Lim Ubac

MEMBERS of the House panel on the bicameral conference committee have turned around and now favor exempting the power sector from the value-added tax (VAT), putting them at loggerheads with their coun-

HOUSE/ A21

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Monday, May 2, 2005 ★★ 76 86 pages 8 sections Vol. 20 / No. 143 P18 website: www.inq7.net

BAYAN
Gabriel
LUPA, SAHOD, TRABAHO
AT KARAPATAN, IPAGLABAN!

FRONTLINE. Members of militant workers' groups led by Representatives Satur Ocampo, Crispin Beltan and Liza Maza march toward Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila to raise demands for wage increases, lower power and water rates and the scrapping of the Oil Deregulation Law on Labor Day. ERIK ARAZAS

GMA orders hike in minimum wage

Regional boards given 30 days to set amounts

By Christine O. Avendaño

FINALLY, workers will get some relief from surging prices.

Minimum wage earners will receive an increase in 30 days, President Macapagal-Arroyo announced on Labor Day. But she left it to the regional wage boards to determine the higher minimum wage levels.

The pay raise was part of a package of benefits for workers that the President unveiled yesterday in Malacañang at a meeting with trade union leaders belonging to the moderate Labor Solidarity Movement (LSM).

Government workers will also get something in the form of a "transitional relief package" while Congress considers a Malacañang proposal to raise their salaries, according to Ms Arroyo.

The President said she had asked Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas to meet with the regional tripartite wage boards and to instruct them to determine the amount of increase in the minimum wage within a month.

"And they will do this, with or without a petition for an increase from the workers," Ms Arroyo said.

Sto. Tomas told reporters that the President's order meant that the regional wage boards should come out with their respective recommendations before June 1.

Militant labor groups are seeking a P125 daily across-the-board increase for workers in the private sector and P3,000 monthly for the public sector.

Outside Metro Manila, the daily minimum wage ranges from P159 to P250, according to Alex Aguilar, spokesperson of the moderate Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP).

The minimum wage stands at P300 a day in Metro Manila, an amount not enough to meet the basic needs of a family of five estimated to be more than P5,000 a month.

The National Statistical Coordinating Board placed the poverty threshold for a family of five in January 2002 at P4,961, while Social Weather Stations found that the subjective poverty threshold in September 2003 was P9,466 a month.

TUCP president Democrito Mendoza said at the Labor Day program at the Palace that the rising cost of living was "generally brought about by the oil companies' insatiable desire for profits."

In her speech, Ms Arroyo thanked employers for providing jobs to the 34 million workers in the country and asked them to "honor" Labor Day and every day by the "sweat of the brow of your employees who help give you a good life."

"In return, we must ensure your workers have a decent wage, a decent workplace and a decent quality of life," she said.

GMA ORDERS/ A4

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo attends a Labor Day Mass at Malacañang with First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and granddaughter Mikaela-Gloria. The President came up with a list of benefits for workers to mark the occasion. EDWIN BACASMAS

Labor rallies nationwide blame gov't for poverty

BRAVING a blistering summer heat, thousands of workers yesterday marched through cities and towns across the country, demanding an end to state policies that, they said, only sank them deeper into poverty.

By nightfall, destabilization moves against President Macapaga-Arroyo's administration, which some government officials had warned against, had failed to materialize.

The fears prompted security forces to barricade approaches to Malacañang with 20-foot-long container vans and barbed-wire fences.

In the only violence reported in a largely peaceful May Day observance, five protesters were injured when policemen clubbed them with truncheons in scuffles at the Mabuhay Rotunda on the boundary of Manila and Quezon City.

It was at the rotunda that the day's biggest protest, involving some 10,000 militants who wanted to march to Malacañang, took place.

Rebuffed by police in their bid to reach the Palace, groups of demonstrators sneaked into a side street as others cheered.

They had gone 50 feet when riot troops went into action and began pushing back the human tide.

Three protesters were taken into custody.

Union workers Joseph Idago and Romy Guanzon were among those detained after being hit with police sticks, said Leody de Guzman, secretary general of the

LABOR/ A8

De Venecia calls for meet to unify country

By Michael Lim Ubac
and Christine O. Avendaño

A MAN who believes in rainbows may be the answer to Fortunato Abat and his dreams of a revolutionary junta, with him at the helm.

Speaker Jose de Venecia, national chair of Lakas-CMD, said yesterday he was convening this week a meeting of the standing committees of political parties belonging to the administration coalition in order to unify the country behind its "duly elected government."

De Venecia said the meeting was needed to deliver a "ringing condemnation of recurring coup attempts and to move the country forward to constitutional amendments."

He announced his move a day after Abat, a former defense secretary, issued a call for the establishment of a revolutionary government to replace President Macapagal-Arroyo and institute reforms.

The Philippine National Police said it would file charges of inciting to sedition or sedition against Abat if it could gather enough evidence against him.

To be invited to the planned meeting being called by De Venecia are Senate President Franklin Drilon, Education Secretary Florencio Abad of the Liberal Party, Frisco San Juan of the Nationalist People's Coalition, Sen. Manny Villar of

DE VENECIA/ A22

DA PHILIPPINES "ISDA BEST!"

'Bangus' capital outgrills Turkey

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DAGUPAN CITY—What's cooking? Not much—just 25,000 *bangus* (milkfish).

This city, touted as the bangus capital of the world, laid out a 2.1-km long barbecue grill and broiled more than 25,000 bangus on Saturday afternoon in its bid to wrest the world record for the longest barbecue from Turkey.

BANGUS/ A21

New coup plot more bluff than bite

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

A PLOT to launch a coup on the eve of Labor Day collapsed from sheer incompetence and gross miscalculation, leaving in its wake a clutter of debris on the littered landscape of failed coups in this country since 1986.

An effort to repeat the May 1, 2001, rebellion in which a rabble of enraged supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada stormed Malacañang only to be crushed by security forces, the new coup plot was more bluff than bite. The plot was overpublicized, and the plotters had broadcast their conspiracy, allowing the government to call their bluff.

The conspirators sought to take advantage of the climate of public unrest with the Arroyo administration but their plot was disjointed at the launch of the coup at Club Filipino on Saturday when their movement was found to be fragmented.

The man whom the plotters had pinned their hopes on to lead their movement to topple the government, rejected their plan to join workers in a Labor Day protest march yesterday. Retired Gen. Fortunato Abat, former Army commander and defense secretary under President Fidel Ramos, broke ranks with the plotters and walked out of their meeting at Club Filipino after announcing an overambitious plan to establish a government of "national salvation."

Thus, the movement found itself

NEW COUP/ A7

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms especially in the afternoon or evening.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: MIKE R. CLICO, PDI RESEARCH/05/02/05

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	**Roxas**	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	**Cebu**	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	**Tacloban**	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy with rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	**Zamboanga**	Cloudy with rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	**Cagayan de Oro**	Cloudy with rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	**Davao**	Cloudy with rains

Second FRONT PAGE

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One year later, Bora killings unsolved

BORACAY ISLAND, Aklan—One year after the gruesome killings jolted residents of this popular island resort, police have still to arrest the perpetrators of the grisly crime.

Anton Forstenhausler, a 68-year-old German national; his guests John James Cowperthwaite, a Hong Kong-based architect; Swiss-born vineyard owner Manfred Schoeni, one of the leading art and antique dealers in Hong Kong, and Anton's Filipino maid Erma Sarmiento were found dead on May 3 in separate rooms of Forstenhausler's mansion on Mt. Luho, Balabag village, here.

The killings shocked Boracay residents and expatriates who considered the murders the worst crime to happen on the island. But one year after the incident, there is hardly any talk now about the killings.

Investigators believed the victims, who bore multiple stab wounds, were killed between the night of May 1 and the morning of the next day.

Relatives of the victims are still crying out for justice. Masses were held on Sunday in Boracay and in Manila to remember the victims and to pray for justice.

The police theorized that the killings resulted from a botched robbery.

They initially questioned 25 construction workers who worked at the mansion. They were later released for lack of evidence.

The police then pinned the killings on German national Uwe Friesl, a friend of Anton's, and Chito Catalogo, one of the construction workers.

On Jan. 5, the Aklan Provincial Prosecutor's Office charged Friesl and three unidentified suspects with four counts of murder for the killings. But it dropped the complaint against Catalogo and the robbery charge.

Friesl's indictment was based mainly on a set of footprints found near the bathroom on the second floor where the bodies of the three foreigners were found. The footprints matched those of Friesl.

But Friesl, a 38-year old mechanic, denied involvement in the killings, saying his footprints were at the crime scene because the police had asked him to help identify the victims.

Friesl appealed his indictment but this was denied by the prosecutor's office.

Police later lost track of Friesl, who left the island before he could be arrested.

Nestor Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau

AIDS 'tsunami' matter of time, warns expert

By Christian V. Esguerra

AN EXPERT has warned of a "tsunami" of sexually transmitted diseases like AIDS in the near future, owing largely to the Filipino attitude of indifference.

"It's only a matter of time, but we don't know when [it will happen]," Dr. Roderick Poblete of the Philippine National AIDS Council told the INQUIRER.

"What we're seeing for AIDs is an ebb tide before the tsunami. [This is when] the tide recedes and people are complacent, just looking at the coastline, playing, and unmindful of the danger," he said.

The Department of Health reported 2,231 HIV positive cases between January 1984 and February 2005, he said, yet people seemed unconcerned.

Of this number, 1,553 were asymptomatic, meaning they had yet to feel the symptoms of the virus, while 678 were already afflicted with AIDS, DOH records showed.

Sixty-nine percent or 1,539 were between the ages of 20 and 39 years old. Sixty-three percent or 1,405 were male.

In February alone, the DOH recorded 17 new HIV positive cases of which 10 were female and seven male. They were all in the 18 to 65 age bracket.

Poblete said the figures were "relatively small," especially when compared to cases in neighboring countries like Thailand and Indonesia.

Tip of the iceberg

"But this is just the tip of the iceberg," he said. "[The problem] is hidden and growing."

For every case documented, Poblete said the government was most likely missing three or four more cases because of the victims' unwillingness to come out into the open.

Around 20 HIV positive cases are recorded out of 50,000 tests conducted by 500 public and private testing centers every month, according to the official.

Afraid to come out

The actual number of infected Filipinos could be much higher, considering the number of people belonging to the so-called "vulnerable population," Poblete said.

He added that 84 percent of recorded cases were a result of unprotected sex.

Of the country's estimated 3 million drug users, around 15,000 were believed to use injectible substances. About 80 percent shared needles, making them vulnerable to the virus, Poblete said.

There were also "men having sex with men" comprising at least 3 percent of the youth population. About 20 percent didn't use condoms, he said.

To arrive at a more realistic assessment of the HIV problem in the country, he said the public should try to be more open to the victims, embrace them with compassion so they won't be afraid to come out and seek help.

Not invincible

"We really have to erase the stigma and the discrimination," Poblete said. "Once society becomes ready to care for the HIV-positive individual, that's the time we will finally see the real magnitude of the disease."

Also, the Filipino youth was confused, he said.

At least 23 percent of Filipinos aged between 15 and 24 think they're "invincible" against HIV and AIDS, he said, citing results of the Young Adult Fertility Survey of the University of the Philippines Population Institute.

About 60 percent believe there's now a cure for the deadly virus so they have become complacent in their sexual activities, he said.

The results showed that Filipino youths were "better off in terms of knowledge, awareness and attitude on HIV-AIDS" in 1994 than they were three years ago, he said.

Grenade kills 2

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A grenade accidentally exploded Saturday in this city, killing an adult and a toddler and wounding 15 others, police said.

Police said an unidentified man dropped the grenade while he was playing with it at his home in Barangay Quimipot here.

The wounded included the grenade handler, whose arm was severed, police said. He and the dead and wounded were not identified.

It was not clear how the man had obtained the grenade, but unlicensed firearms and explosives are known to be readily accessible in the area.

AFP

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PAF calls off search for victims' remains

By Nikko Dizon

THE PHILIPPINE Air Force has called off the search for the remains of three victims of the helicopter crash that took the life of volcanologist Dr. Raymundo Punongbayan and eight others last Thursday.

Lt. Col. Restituto Padilla, Air Force spokesperson, said: "We're calling it off because we can't find anything more."

Parajumpers from the PAF 505th Search and Rescue Group had retrieved six sets of remains on Thursday, four of which were identified as those of the two Air Force pilots and the two crew members.

The two other remains, mostly charred body parts of two of the five scientists, including Punongbayan, who were on board the ill-fated UH-1H Huey 324 helicopter, had been taken to the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) for identification.

Padilla said the search and rescue team collected the ashes in the Huey's passenger cabin yesterday.

He said the team was also able to recover bits and pieces of human bone, as well as some of the victims' personal belongings.

These were scheduled to be brought back to Villamor Air Base in Pasay City yesterday.

Meanwhile, the engine of the Huey that crashed on Mt. Namat in Nueva Ecija will be brought to the PAF maintenance facility at Clark Field, Pampanga, for analysis, Padilla said.

He told the INQUIRER that the engine, as well as parts of the tail and rotor, were to be trucked from Nueva Ecija to Pampanga last night.

Padilla said the engine would be examined by the PAF 410th Maintenance Wing under Gen. Fernando Manalo.

"Videos and photographs of the engine as well as its attached accessories showed that it was fairly intact. But the maintenance wing would have to determine how hard it hit the ground," Padilla said in a phone interview.

The crash killed Punongbayan, the country's top geo-scientist, four scientists from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) and four Air Force crewmen.

Punongbayan, former Phivolcs director and Philippine National Red Cross governor at the time of his death, and his team were on a mission to find resettlement areas for flood victims in Aurora province, as well as to find ways to prevent the flashfloods that killed thousands in the province last year, when the crash occurred.

Sen. Richard Gordon, meanwhile, has started a fund-raising campaign for the families of rescue volunteers who get maimed or killed in the line of duty in the wake of last Thursday's helicopter crash.

Gordon, PNRC chair, said he has allocated P1 million from the Red Cross' P35-million Millennium Fund as seed money for the "rescuers' fund."

With TJ Burgonio

PNP: Rosebud paid with intel funds

THE PHILIPPINE National Police yesterday said the P5.8 million that former anti-narcotics agent Rosemary "Rosebud" Ong received as "agent's fees" had come from the PNP intelligence fund and not from jueteng payola.

"We have funds for such agents," said PNP spokesperson Sr. Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil.

"I just would like to say that the PNP takes care of its legitimate agents and compensates them in accordance with our existing policies," he said.

Former PNP chief Edgar Aglipay ordered the cash payment to Ong in January after Ong accused First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo of blocking the release of her agent's fees.

But last week, a police officer disclosed that the cash that Ong received had come from jueteng payola.

"It was jueteng money. Such a transaction would not go unnoticed in Camp Crame," said the top PNP official.

Reached by phone, Ong insisted that the money she received came from the PNP, and that it was not jueteng money.

She also said she was aware of attempts to link members of the First Family, particularly Mike Arroyo, to the jueteng controversy.

But it was the PNP that paid her, not President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband, Ong said.

"Don't forget that I was the first one to bravely unmask the face of FG [First Gentleman]. My collection was between me and the PNP, and it was FG who tried to block the release (of the money)," she said, adding that she supported efforts to stop the illegal numbers game.

Luige A. del Puerto

DEFENSE Minister Yoshinori Ono (right) with Assistant Secretary Alejandro Melchor

HIROHIKO Nakamura (right) and Pagcor chair Efraim C. Genuino PHOTOS: ROGER MARGALLO

Japan eyes RP nurses

FILIPINO nurses and caregivers may soon find Japan an alternative destination to the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom.

An 11-man Japanese delegation led by Sen. Hirohiko Nakamura is in Manila for a four-day visit to discuss with President Macapagal-Arroyo, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas and other agency heads the possibility of creating employment opportunities for nurses and caregivers in Japan.

Nakamura, a member of the House of Councilors of the National Diet of Japan, was accompanied by Takashi Minagawa of the Ministry for Health, Labor and Welfare, Ajira Nagoshi of the Federation of National Care Politics, and eight other officials.

They were met by Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) chair Efraim Genuino and Manila International Airport Authority general manager Alfonso Cusi.

"Nakamura authored of a bill that would pave the way for the entry of Filipino caregivers and nurses to Japan," Genuino said at a press conference at the Naia Dignitaries Lounge.

Through an interpreter, Nakamura said the bill might be passed sometime this year.

Nakamura said Japan needs more than 200 caregivers for both children and adults.

He said Filipino caregivers and nurses could earn as much as P100,000 monthly, inclusive of board and lodging, under a three to four-year contract.

Also yesterday, Japan Defense Agency chief Yoshinori Ohno arrived in the country for an overnight visit to discuss security issues with top officials.

Ohno was scheduled to make a highly symbolic visit yesterday to Corregidor island, where US and Filipino forces made a last stand before advancing Japanese forces in World War II.

Today, Ohno is scheduled to call on President Arroyo and hold talks with Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz.

The Japanese embassy said Ono's trip was part of ongoing consultations with Asian neighbors and allies. Ono will fly to Australia today.

Nikko Dizon with AFP

Ketamine sale, use now illegal

By Nelson F. Flores

TO CURB its rising popularity among the youth, the Dangerous Drugs Board yesterday reclassified ketamine as a controlled substance, thus making its unauthorized possession a violation of the country's anti-drug laws.

The reclassification of ketamine or ketamine hydrochloride was prompted by a study conducted by DDB's Technical Working Group upon the recommendation of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency which showed that its unsupervised use was dangerous to those taking the drug.

The study noted that ketamine was fast becoming the drug of choice among young adults.

Ketamine is a non-barbiturate, rapid-acting disassociative anesthetic used on both animals and human beings. It is used as medicine for pediatric burns and in dentistry and experimental psychotherapy.

DDB executive director Senior Undersecretary Dionisio Santiago said the ill effects of ketamine ranged from "rapture to paranoia to boredom."

He said a ketamine user feels its hallucinogenic effects and experiences impaired perception.

"Ketamine also commonly elicits an out-of-body or near-death experience and can even render its user comatose," Santiago said.

In 2003, the PDEA and Bureau of Food and Drug personnel seized about 7,000 vials of liquid ketamine and one kilogram of ketamine powder somewhere in southern Metro Manila.

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Father of RP labor unionism honored

From page A1

"Isabelo de los Reyes is the father of labor unionism in the country. But on the national level, he is forgotten," said Mayor Ferdinand Medina during a wreath-laying ceremony along Calle Crisologo for De los Reyes or Don Belong as he was called.

De los Reyes, largely known as the "last of the Propagandists," founded the Union Obrero Democratica (UOD), the first Filipino labor federation, on Feb. 2, 1902.

Because of the UOD's militant call for Filipino workers' rights, De los Reyes was jailed and his group was declared by the Americans to be anarchist and subversive.

The federation was later renamed Union Obrero Democratica de Filipinas and led by De los Reyes' follower, Dominador Gomez.

On May 1, 1913, the Congreso Obrero de Filipinas (COF) continued De los Reyes' legacy.

Councilor Everin Molina said the National Historical Institute was initially lukewarm to the idea of putting up a plaque in honor of De los Reyes.

"We had to move to make it official. I sponsored a resolution two years ago for the NHI to recognize him," Molina said. "Sometimes we feel that only Vigan remembers him."

Historian Teodoro Agoncillo said three things ensured De los Reyes' place in history: He was a propagandist of the revolutionary cause; he was founder of the UOD, and, more importantly, he together with Bishop Gregorio Aglipay founded the Iglesia Filipina Independiente or the Aglipayan Church.

"For these three achievements alone, he truly deserves to be called one of the great Filipinos," Agoncillo said.

VIGAN City officials led by Mayor Ferdinand Medina offer flowers at the marker to Isabelo de los Reyes, founder of labor unionism in the Philippines, during commemoration rites yesterday.

LEONCIO BALBIN JR./PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

GMA orders . . .

From page A1

Other benefits that Ms Arroyo announced were:

- Wider coverage of health insurance and double the number of children of overseas Filipino workers benefiting from scholarships.
- A community of workers to rise on a 50-hectare parcel of land in Tanay, Rizal, owned by the Employees Compensation Commission.
- Loans and assistance to unions wanting to start businesses, a joint undertaking by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and small corporations.
- Allocation of P2 million from the DOLE budget for the implementation of projects under the Social Accord signed by business and labor in 2004.
- More job fairs to be conducted by DOLE and the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Withholding tax

- Possible exemption of minimum wage-earners from paying the withholding tax. The President has ordered Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima to study the proposal.
- Study by the government and business and labor sectors aimed at amending the Labor Code, including labor contractualization.
- Transfer of the supervision of the National Labor Relations Commission from the Office of the President to the DOLE to speed up the disposition of labor cases.
- Inclusion of a labor representative to be chosen by the Department of Energy and the DOLE in the DOE committee reviewing the Oil Deregulation Law.
- Naming of a labor representative from LSM to the Price Coordinating Council. The labor representative will be chosen by Trade Secretary Johnny Santos.
- More rolling stores.
- Inclusion of unions in the anticorruption campaign by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission and the Run After Tax Evasion program.

The President also appealed to Congress to pass a law that would ban the importation of second-hand vehicles, except trucks, buses and ambulances, to protect jobs in the automotive industry.

She said she had ordered the ban through Executive Order No. 56, but this was blocked by importers of second-hand cars.

Manifesto

Ms Arroyo was responding to the 10-point workers' manifesto that was presented to her by labor groups, including the TUCP.

Among the demands of the groups were for a P78 across-the-board increase in the minimum wage; exemption of minimum wage-earners from withholding taxes; a stop to the practice of contractualization, casualization and contract agency hiring, and the speedy disposition of labor cases at the National Labor Relations Commission.

Reacting to the package of benefits announced by the President, Aguilar said the TUCP was "optimistic on some of the issues," particularly the wage increase, possible exemption of minimum wage earners from the payment of withholding taxes, and the 50-hectare land to be provided to workers.

He said the TUCP was elated that Ms Arroyo had given the wage boards 30 days to determine the amount of the increase. He noted that the boards "take forever" to come up with such decisions.

Aguilar said his group was seeking a P78 across-the-board daily wage increase based on TUCP computations that took into consideration the projected inflation between now and December, as well as other factors.

Pulled out of thin air

Asked to comment on the P125 wage increase being sought by militant groups, such as the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU), Aguilar said the TUCP did not have any quarrel with the KMU on the amount.

"It's just the KMU has been demanding that amount for 10 years now," he said. "If the computation is correct, it should be P250 by now. Our record will speak for itself. Every year, we were able to raise the wages through our petitions. And until now, the KMU and its allies have not been able to increase the minimum wage."

KMU chair Elmer Labog slammed the TUCP for filing last week its petition for a P78 wage increase, saying the group pulled the figure out of "thin air."

"That was done to put a dent in the credibility of the demand for the P125 increase," he said.

Labog said the KMU was still pressing for a legislated wage increase.

Sto. Tomas said only the wage boards in Metro Manila and Iloilo had received petitions from labor groups for P78 and P100 wage increases, respectively.

Asked whether employers were amenable to a P78 wage increase, Sto. Tomas said employers felt the amount was too high and might result in job losses.

"But the wage boards have representatives from employers and labor, and I'm sure they would be able to balance whatever the demand is," she said.

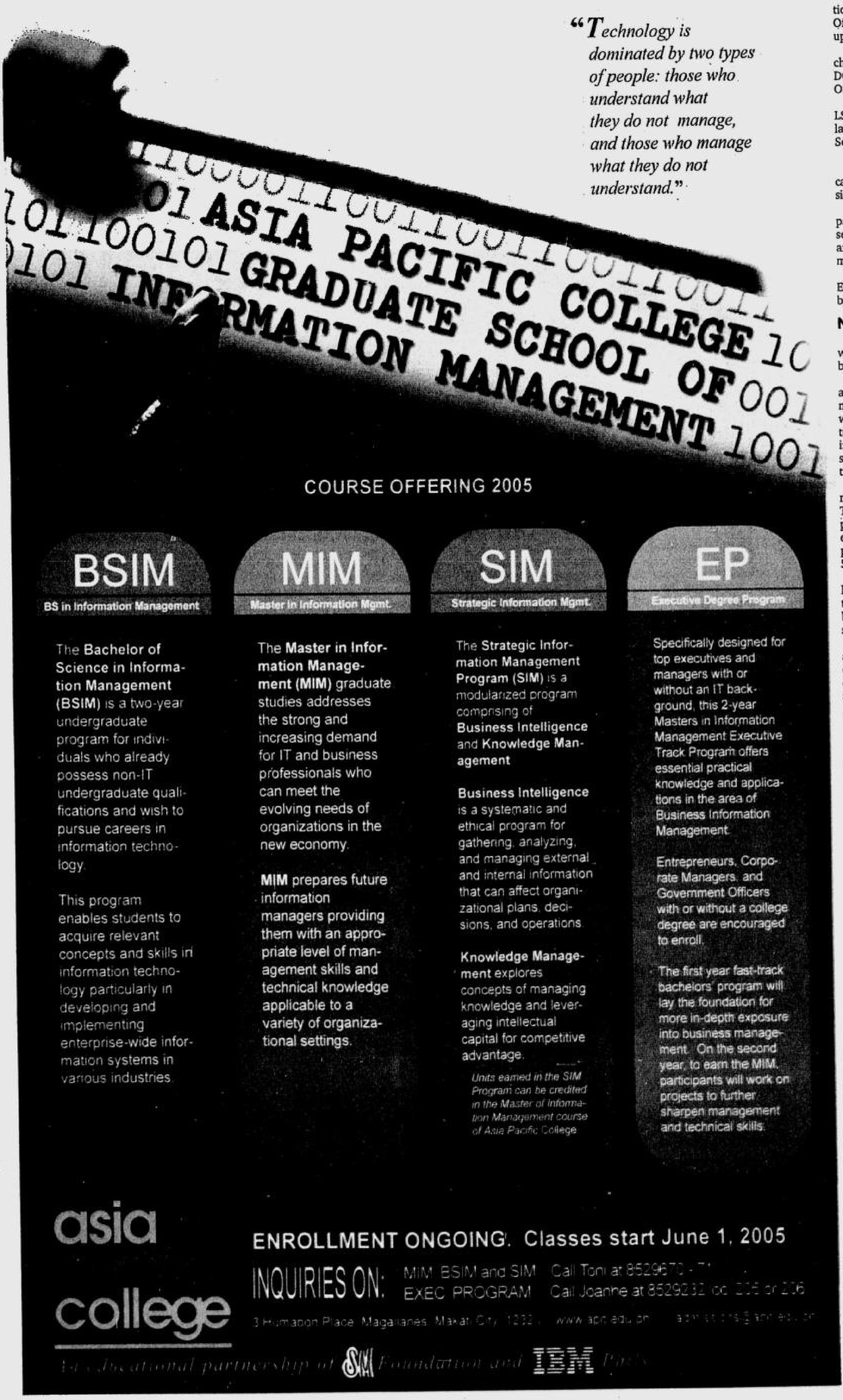
As for the increase in the salaries of government employees, the secretary said this was a "money measure" requiring a supplemental law from Congress.

In the meantime, Sto. Tomas said she and Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin were discussing the "transitional relief package" for government employees.

Asked what the transitional relief package would contain, Sto. Tomas said this might include additional health benefits, transportation support and a provident fund.

She said the President was able to respond to the demands of labor groups.

"Even if we live in challenging times, the government tries to respond to the needs of the workers," Sto. Tomas said. *With a report from Leila B. Salaverria*



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NBI enters diplomat's slay probe

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has entered the probe into the brutal killing of Foreign Affairs Assistant Secretary Alicia Ramos.

"We now have combined our efforts in investigating the killing. But we will still be the lead agency, while they will be helping us in some aspects," said Chief Supt. Wilfredo Garcia, Southern Police District (SPD) director.

Garcia said yesterday that Edmund Arugay, chief of the NBI's National Capital Region Division, had volunteered on Friday to have his team of investigators assist in the Ramos slay investigation, now on its 8th day.

"We are very grateful that the NBI volunteered," Garcia told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Arugay's division investigated the ambush of Commission on Elections Information and Education Director Velma Cinco in March 2001, and the early morning shooting of airport executive Lilia Diaz in September 2003. It is currently continuing its investigation of the November 2001 slay of actress Nida Blanca.

Ramos, who served more than 30 years in the country's diplomatic service, was killed early on the morning of April 24 in her second-floor bedroom in the home she shared with her sister, Leticia, at 5552 Boyle Street, Palanan, Makati City.

The 64-year-old former ambassador suffocated to death, after her killers hogtied her and placed a hood over her head which they tightly wound around her neck with a white towel.

Leticia, also a foreign affairs official, survived the attack with minor injuries after she was able to unbind her ties and flee the house. She ran to a nearby hospital before going to a police detachment to report the incident.

Garcia said among the tasks delegated to the NBI was the questioning of laborers that Ramos' neighbors said had done some construction work at the sisters' home a few months back.

"Some are already out of Metro Manila... The others were reported to be somewhere in Baguio," Garcia said. *Tarra V. Quismundo*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, May 2, 2005
6th Week of Easter
1st Reading: Acts 16:11-15
Gospel: John 15:26-16:4

Jesus said to his disciples, "From the Father, I will send you the Spirit of truth. When this Helper has come from the Father, he will be my witness, and you, too, will be my witnesses for you have been with me from the beginning.

"I tell you all this to keep you from stumbling and falling away. They will put you out of the Jewish communities. Still more, the hour is coming when anyone who kills you will claim to be serving God; they will do this because they have not known the Father or me. I tell you all these things now so that when the time comes you may remember that I told you.

"I did not tell you about this in the beginning because I was with you."

Commentary

WE draw near to Pentecost, the birth of the Church and the setting loose of the Spirit of God into the world to continue the work of Jesus. Jesus tells us that he is sending us the Spirit of Truth. Jesus' words, like the Spirit will keep us from stumbling and falling away when we begin to experience rejection, persecution, even being killed for believing in Jesus and for living out his commands. The Spirit is given for strength, for enduring grace, for imaginative and life-giving ways to resist evil and to remain faithful. The Spirit is given for the large areas that need courage, truth-telling when power needs to be confronted and the poor and the weak need to be defended. Are we praying for this gift, given to us at baptism and confirmation to take hold in us and mature us in faith and witness to love, to justice and to peace in the world?

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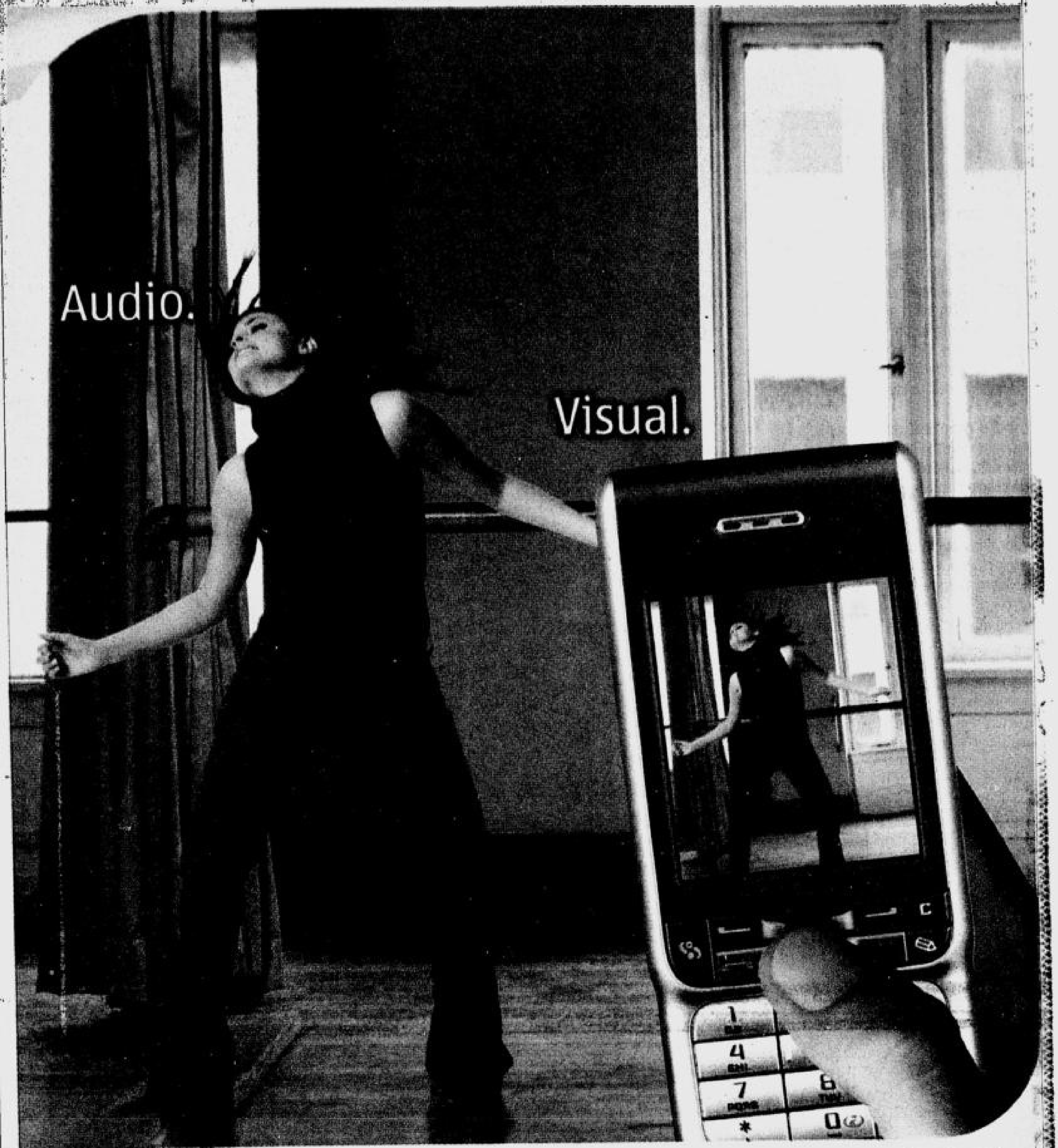

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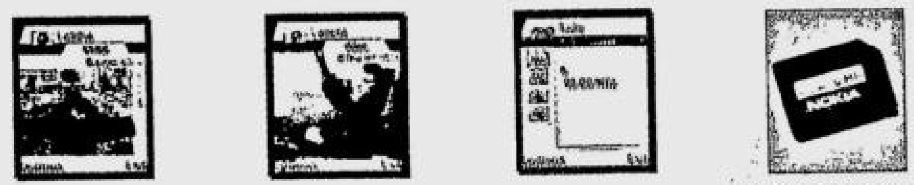
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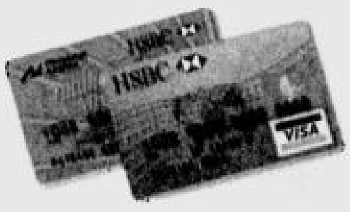

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EDUCATION & THE OFW

Letters from Two OWWA Scholars

Grateful for the big break

By Aubrey O. Napoto

Aubrey O. Napoto, 20, obtained her bachelor's degree in Statistics, Cum Laude, from the University of the Philippines this year. She enjoyed the OWWA's Congressional Migrant Workers Scholarship Program grant from 2001 to 2005 as a beneficiary of her late mother who had worked in Hong Kong as a domestic helper. A multi-awarded student at the UP, she lives with a younger sister in Quezon City.

“To the OWWA and PCSO:

At this moment, I am overpowered with joy and gratitude.

It is not easy to explain the feeling of fulfillment at having completed my education at the UP, a university that demands not only a brilliant intellect but also a soul patient enough to face the challenges of living life through your own wits. With this, I mean the insufficiency of surviving only with an open mind. Studying at the UP also requires one to have minimum financial capability. One can learn the skills of adapting to the diverse cultures and ideologies of the university but having the financial means to obtain an education cannot be taught. It is earned. It is sometimes bestowed.

It is the norm that parents support their children's education. But not everybody has this luck. Some have to work to earn for their schooling; some choose to delay, or to not go to school at all. There are those lucky ones who win scholarships in return for good school performance and later service to the grantor. I had this luck. It was a blessing that I had been a recipient of a grant of the Congressional Migrant Workers Scholarship Program. For four years, this grant motivated me to strive and work hard in my studies. Without the grant, I would have transferred to a local college. This would have dashed my hopes of pursuing my education at my dream university.

This is why I am so thankful to the OWWA and the PCSO. They have given me a big break. The grant had a huge impact on me. It helped me get an education. The efficient service of the OWWA officials and staff who administer the scholarship program helped me grow as a person. Thank you for the fine opportunity. Thank you for the good company, the knowledge, the friendship, the advice, and the concern.

Now that I am graduating Cum Laude, I share this honor with OWWA. To the OWWA family, I thank you very much. You helped me fulfill my dream.

Aubrey”

Thank you, OWWA for the touch of the heart

By Fil-Aimee A. Gorosin

Fil-Aimee A. Gorosin, 20, graduated Magna Cum Laude in Computer Science and Information System from the Centro Escolar University this year. A consistent Dean's Lister, full university scholar, outstanding student leader, she received the OWWA's Congressional Migrant Workers Scholarship grant from 2001-2005 as a beneficiary of her late father who was a seafarer. She lives with her mother and twin brothers in Quezon City.

“Dear OWWA:

OWWA has become a home, the place where I had the opportunity to explore my creativity and potential, to form my dreams and virtues, to overcome countless fears, to endure painful defeats, and to learn life's lessons. After many years of searching for knowledge and self-fulfillment, I have had the privilege of meeting many amazing people in this institution--people who helped me shape my thoughts, influenced my ideas, and provided me with valuable knowledge and encouragement.

And now that I have successfully completed my education at the Centro Escolar University, I say that now is the right time to honor the people to whom I owe much: To the OWWA Board of Trustees, for giving time and investing effort to mold us to what we are today, and for helping us in our holistic formation; To the Scholarship Committee, whose members have guided us constantly and given us timely reminders; To the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), for providing us with financial assistance, and for believing in our capabilities as scholars; To the OWWA officials and employees, for making us realize the importance of education, and for providing us with an environment full of unforgettable, happy memories;

Thank you so much from the bottom of my heart.

To my co-scholars, keep on dreaming. Face the struggles ahead with strong conviction. Always take pleasure in enhancing your knowledge and skills for these will be your passport to success. And thank you for the solid bond of friendship that cannot be cut by knives, that cannot be frayed by distance, nor torn by words. I also sincerely appreciate the dedicated OWWA welfare officers, particularly Ms. Mary Anne Manzano, Ms. Henedina Daquigan, and Mr. Jerry Foronda, for the touch of the heart, the precious pieces of advice, and encouragement. For me, they are gifts sent from above. I will be forever grateful for all the help and assistance you have given me.

Aimee”

SCHOLARS' LIST

The 100 Scholars of the OWWA's Education for Development Scholarship Program
SY 2005-2006

REGION		NAME	PROVINCE
RO 1	1	Christian Joshua P. San Agustin	La Union
	2	Emily Joy Torio Magalong	Pangasinan
	3	Lynneth Anyaya Centeno	Pangasinan
	4	Jessel Ann Oficial Pillado	Pangasinan
	5	John Ryan Curioso Esmas	Pangasinan
	6	Khaloo Brenn Imuan Natan	Pangasinan
	7	Mary Joy Gamas Rivera	Pangasinan
	8	Oscar Kiel Villamil Duran, Jr.	Pangasinan
	9	Rhamy Montefalco Tumbaga	Pangasinan
	10	Anna Loureen Balangue Benitez	La Union
	11	Jheson Onarce Dacanay	La Union
	12	Karen A. Dela Cruz	La Union
	13	Jocelyn Munda Sison	Pangasinan
	14	Philip Ordinario Moresco	La Union
CAR	15	Da Bugnosen Cino	Benguet
RO 2	16	Jaylor E. Pacis	Cagayan
	17	Renelyn Rubianes Dela Cruz	Cagayan
	18	Alexander N. Allan	Cagayan
	19	Genette Grace Durwin Nanlong	Cagayan
	20	Marnellee Estabillo Agtonton	Nueva Vizcaya
	21	Cheriza Gacias Dela Cruz	Cagayan
RO 3	22	Allyne Faith Bongtiwon Gabol	Nueva Ecija
	23	Elaine C. Condaya	Bataan
	24	Noel Marcelino Luzung	Pampanga
	25	John Christopher Flores Pangilinan	Tarlac
	26	April Anne P. Aquino	Bataan
	27	Fiona Marie Barlis Torres	Nueva Ecija
	28	Lorraine Lapuz Dueñas	Bulacan
	29	Lewellyn John C. Maniacup	Pampanga
	30	Jobelle Ambalina Mateo	Nueva Ecija
	31	Jennylyn Macapas Decano	Bataan
	32	Jonathan Jay Borromeo Bermas	Zambales
NCR	33	Desiree Ablan Ronquillo	Pasay City
	34	Edward Christian Sta. Barbara Pugal	Caloocan City
	35	Richard Alvin Vergara Andal	Taguig City
	36	Gian Carlo Linsao Lopez	Parañaque City
	37	Jumar San Vicente Centeno	Manila
	38	Ma. Melissa Villanueva Surell	Taguig City
	39	Guianna Mei Palma Puro	Makati City
RO 4-A	40	Patrick Combinido Rivera	Laguna
	41	Mary Anne Jao Luces	Laguna
	42	May Anne Marie Rosales Ferrer	Laguna
	43	Joanna Rica B. Paragua	Cavite
	44	Baldomero Manalo Magpantay III	Batangas
	45	Millie May De Leon Cruzata	Laguna
	46	Dina Katherine Alvarez Zipagan	Quezon
RO 4-B	47	Michelle Hernandez Vitto	Mindoro Oriental
RO 5	48	Anthonene Rhenmelyn Naron Lorio	Camarines Sur
	49	Lorylie Villabos Almaida	Camarines Norte
RO 6	50	Rosemarie Reyes Canonoy	Aklan
	51	Ramilene Awacay Pulao	Negros Occidental
	52	April Grace Gabinete Tabuada	Guimaras
	53	Kevin Isturis Sadji	Aklan
	54	Cherry Rose Rute Jabor	Iloilo
	55	Alvan Paul Orbita Caro	Iloilo
	56	Nona Asan Navarro	Iloilo
	57	Shonna Mae Jaula Mamon	Iloilo
	58	Joelyn Bantiles Erasmo	Negros Occidental
	59	Archie Tampani Serisola	Iloilo
	60	Joyce Tingson Fajardo	Iloilo
	61	Allyn Barbosa Roa	Negros Occidental
	62	Dylin Casico Pasuquin	Iloilo
RO 7	63	Shakira Remoroza Arda	Cebu
	64	Famela I. Jumola	Cebu
	65	Sheila Mae Montermoso Sanchez	Cebu
	66	Fritz Calumba Erispe	Cebu
	67	Darbslyn Van Ranara Calamohoy	Bohol
	68	Irvy Marie Manacap Aliganga	Cebu
	69	Scott Dreuben Aranas Ponce	Cebu
	70	Rodmey Bray Palma Vitorillo	Bohol
	71	Mary Grace More Batulan	Cebu
	72	Jowenie Rose Ilustricimo Bangiban	Cebu
	73	Eufronio D. Sedillo, Jr.	Negros Oriental
	74	Clinton Jay Daugdaug Camanan	Cebu
	75	Rester Angel Llorente Singson	Bohol
	76	Kathleen Calledo Fuentes	Cebu
	77	Gesther Dadizon Delima	Cebu
RO 8	78	Windyleyn O. Omega	Leyte
	79	Greg R. Ariza II	Leyte
RO 9	80	Kristel Mae P. Noble	Zamboanga City
	81	Khadija Nulon Samson	Zamboanga City
	82	Ronald Villanueva Eleno	Zamboanga City
RO 10	83	Glady Mae Mangompit Laurete	Lanao del Norte
	84	Mary Joy S. Taganahan	Misamis Oriental
	85	Geezel P. Arizabal	Misamis Oriental
	86	Jupel Dadulo Templo	Lanao del Norte
	87	Kerby Ann D. Quibaquibo	Misamis Oriental
	88	Salve Mae B. Dominguez	Lanao del Norte
	89	Florey Cagas Pabingwit	Lanao del Norte
RO 11	90	Crystal Lambojon Espina	Davao del Sur
	91	Earl Jan Silva Uy	Davao del Sur
	92	Gerbert Deoric Dado	Davao del Sur
	93	James Nepumoceno Orongan	Davao del Sur
	94	Shayne Laureece B. Barcena	Davao del Norte
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The Congressional Migrant Workers Scholarship Program is one of four education benefit packages the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration or the OWWA, as the government's lead membership welfare institution, offers to overseas Filipino workers and their dependents. The three others are the Education for Development Scholarship Program, Skills-for-Employment Scholarship Program, and Seafarers Upgrading Program. All these programs provide financial grants-in-aid for tuition and other school fees, monthly stipend, and certain allowances.

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1,730 Indons in Mindanao get RP registration papers

DAVAO CITY—Some 1,730 Indonesians were issued alien certificates of registration allowing them to stay legally in the country during the formal presentation of the documents yesterday at the Indonesian Cultural Promotion Center here.

The issuance of the ACRs to Indonesians is part of the continuing partnership of the Philippines through the Bureau of Immigration and Indonesia through its embassy. The aim of the partnership is to legalize the stay of some 8,000 Indonesians in Mindanao.

Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez said they would complete the issuance of the ACRs to Indonesians before the year ends.

Fernandez said Indonesians would no longer find it hard to pay for the ACRs because the Department of Justice had approved the new tariffs which cut fees by more than half.

For people 14 years old and above, the old ACR fee of P1,060 was reduced to P410. For people under 14 years old, the fee was cut to P210 while the renewal fee was lowered to P150.

Fernandez said pioneering Indonesians had been living in the country for more than 50 years.

Most of the Indonesians live in Glan in Sarangani, Kiamba in Sultan Kudarat, and Jose Abad Santos in Davao del Sur. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

New coup plot more bluff

From page A1

without a leader at a crucial hour, turning the plot into a pathetic farce.

Abat, who had been at the center of coup conspiracies since the time of Estrada, found he had no troops to stage a coup.

Abat quit, but not without unfolding first a grandiose plan that called for a new government, the abolition of Congress and the pork barrel, the adoption of a new Constitution and the establishment of a federal system. The program of the conspirators sought the overthrow of President Macapagal-Arroyo through "people power," the installation of a revolutionary council, and the total overhaul of the Constitution.

Abad told the plotters that he objected to joining the Labor Day march because there was no plan of action. "Let us think," he said. "We won't achieve anything by simply marching."

The program of the conspirators was unveiled at the launching of the so-called Coalition for National Salvation, echoing a phrase all too often adopted by military coups, including the junta that now rules Burma (Myanmar).

The program of Abat's cabal went far beyond the scope of all the coups that were launched against all Philippine administrations after the Marcos dictatorship. All the previous coup conspiracies had more modest objectives—just the overthrow of the existing government. The plotters had not planned the total restructuring of the political system.

Overestimation

The Abat cabal overreached itself and overestimated that its program and manifesto would ignite a conflagration that would send people to the streets in another "people power" manifestation.

The action of the Abat group suffered from the same flaws that doomed all previous coup attempts, including the 2003 Oakwood mutiny by young officers. Abat's group thought that there was a level of unrest against the Arroyo administration that could be fanned to support a coup.

I have it on good authority that the coup plotters had been talking with military officers and in the headcount, they could not muster the numbers to back them. Even during the past few days, the plotters had discovered they could not mount a successful coup, and this helps explain why Abat had to walk out at the launch of their manifesto at Club Filipino.

While it is true that the Arroyo administration is now in the midst of widespread discontent, it has not reached a level that could spark insurrections. The plotters had thought that the May Day protest rally would serve as the fuse for the convergence of the discontent.

The President's popularity has been on an unabated decline, there are widespread allegations of corruption, a number of administration officials have resigned during the past few days, rising inflation is fueling discontent, and the administration is caught in the grip of a standoff over the tax reform legislation designed to rescue the country from a deep fiscal deficit crisis.

Exaggerated

The latest plot has exaggerated the level of distress of the people. It has also overestimated its ability to generate another people power movement and getting support from the military, although there is also plenty of discontent in the Armed Forces over corruption.

The new "jueteng" scandal, in which people close to the President are allegedly linked, is not as fatal as the jueteng scandal that led to the impeachment of Estrada.

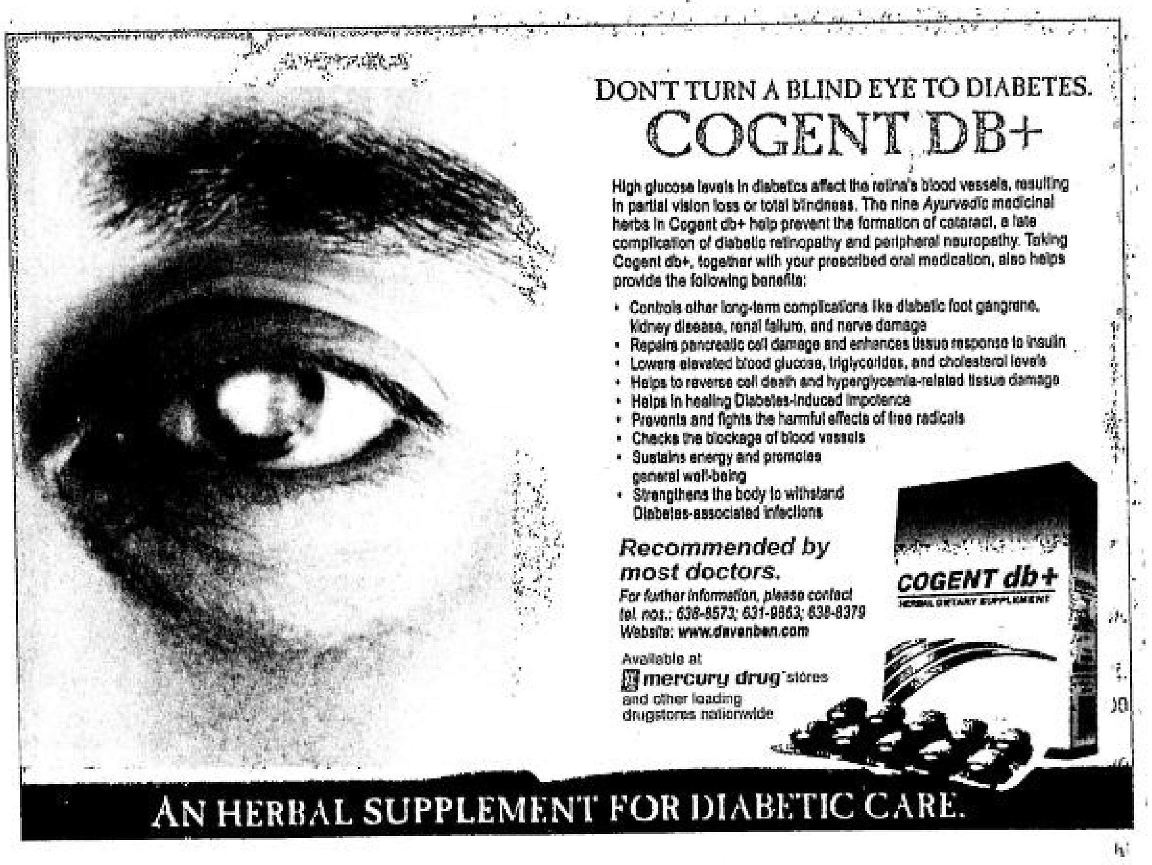
The scandal needs another Gov. Chavit Singson as a credible whistle-blower. It needs hard evidence of the kind produced by Singson to start an impeachment process. The allegations are hurting the administration and it has a perception problem. Many are inclined to believe the allegations are true but it needs more than that to start the impeachment process.

The new conspiracy suffers from sloppy planning and wrong reading of events. The plotters seem to believe that conditions are ripe to ignite an insurrection. Their program is so romantic and ambitious that the public cannot relate with it.

The Abat group has no credible leader. Many are disenchanted with Ms Arroyo and she has proven to be a disappointment in view of their high expectations, but the plotters have not presented a credible alternative to her—least of all Abat.

A coup requires careful planning about military support and popular support. All the coup plots since 1986 have taken these factors for granted. Thus, these plots were ad hoc projects, depending on chance for their success.

The Abat plot is no different. No wonder it



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Labor rallies nationwide blame gov't for poverty

From page A1

Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino.

Another unionist, William Flores, was also taken in, said De Guzman.

Two of the injured were women workers, he said.

One policeman was also hurt, ground commander Allan Parena of the La Loma police said.

The police and the protesters had been negotiating over how far the demonstrators could march into Manila. Police said their orders were not to allow the protesters into Manila.

Protest goes on

After the scuffles, the rest of the demonstrators walked back to the Mabuhay Rotunda. They ended up continuing their program in front of a police line.

The protesters in Metro Manila and the provinces, representing the labor, women, youth, media and Church sectors, called for across-the-board wage increases, lower power and water rates, and the scrapping of the controversial Oil Deregulation Law, among other concerns.

Police estimated the rotunda crowd at 10,000, but organizers said they numbered up to 30,000.

Peaceful dispersal

Joshua Mapa, secretary general of the Alliance of Progressive Labor, lambasted the "neo-liberal" economic policies of the administration, saying they only benefited capitalists and imperialists.

Mapa also said the government should protect farmers by imposing higher tariffs on imported agricultural products. The killing of militants and trade union leaders should stop, he also said.

By 6 p.m., most of the protesters had peacefully dispersed, save for those at the Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila, PNP Deputy Director General Avelino Razon said. He estimated the number of protesters at Liwasang Bonifacio at 5,000.

Razon described the protests as "generally peaceful."

Although the area around the Chino Roces (formerly Mendiola) Bridge had been declared a no-rally zone, police took nothing for granted.

Amid concerns that some government foes might launch destabilization moves, police posted hundreds of antiriot policemen, 20-foot container vans and barbed-wire fences near the bridge, creating a virtually impenetrable barricade.

Malacañang secure

About 300 policemen, led by Supt. Danilo Abarsoza, guarded the bridge.

Behind two container vans were layers of barbed-wire fences and a fire truck.

Down the road, just after Concepcion Aguila Street, two more large container vans and more barbed-wire fences stood.

The Western Police District force was reinforced by units from the Eastern Police District and the National Capital Region Police Office.

WPD director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong said the barriers near Malacañang were put up to prevent clashes between police and protesters.

"With the barricades, the police and the groups would not need to negotiate and a confrontation would be avoided," he said.

"We are keeping the Palace very much secured," Presidential Security Guard chief Brig. Gen. Delfin Bangit told reporters.

The security clampdown came a day after former Defense Secretary Fortunato Abat called for the establishment of a civilian-military junta to replace Ms Arroyo. *(See related story on Page A1.)*

No repeat of history

On May 1, 2001, thousands of supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada tried to storm Malacañang, triggering clashes with the police which left at least six people dead.

Some 200 members of the People's Movement Against Poverty, a group identified with Estrada, tried to approach the Palace but were blocked, officials said.

Major streets in other urban centers around the country also echoed with the sounds of thousands of marching workers.

In Calabarzon, the country's premier industrial region, it seemed like a summer of discontent as more than 2,000 workers held rallies in Laguna, Cavite, Batangas and Quezon to protest high prices, low wages, lack of decent jobs, onerous taxes and abuse of workers' rights.

Communist Party spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal scoffed at police and military claims that New People's Army rebels would infiltrate the Labor Day protests.

Rebels don't march

"We have always made it clear that NPA members are not allowed to participate in any mass mobilizations. Our Red fighters are only for the advancement of the armed revolution in the countryside," Rosal said in a mobile phone interview.

But the Communist Party of the Philippines "supports the struggle of the Filipino workers for the cessation of labor repression and violence against union leaders being committed by capitalists and apparatus of the state," Rosal stressed.

In Laguna, militants held a motorcade from San Pedro to Calamba City, where they joined thousands of workers from export-oriented firms in Laguna, Batangas and Quezon.

Workers marched in Dasmariñas, General Trias and General Mariano Alvarez towns in Cavite, said Ronnie Luna, chair of the BMP-Laguna.

Militants marked the protest with a mass signing of a pledge to oppose the Arroyo administration and its policy of globalization.

"Poverty and hunger virtually sum up the situation of workers not just in the industrial areas of Calabarzon but in the entire country. Prices are steadily increasing," Luna said.

Carrying red flags and white banners with red slogans, some 200 activists also marked the day with rallies in Legazpi City, demanding wage increases, the scrapping of the Oil Deregulation Law, and a rollback of fuel prices.

Foreign miners

Among the groups that participated were the KMU, Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, Bicolana-Gabriela, Condor-Piston, League of Filipino Students, Courage, Anakbayan and Karapatan.

They opposed the influx of foreign mining companies in the region, specifically in Camarines Norte, Albay and Masbate, and accused the Arroyo administration of "selling our natural resources." *(See related story in Across the Nation, Page A17.)*

The demonstrations were marked by poetry reading, songs and dances.

In Pampanga, more than 2,000 workers from Central Luzon's economic zones marched through the City of San Fernando to protest against what they said were the government's cheap labor policies, trade union repression and labor rights violations.

Makabayan spokesperson Emily Fajardo said the government had sacrificed the welfare of workers by embracing the globalization policy of rich countries.

Low wages in factories at the Bataan Economic Zone, Clark Special Economic Zone and the Subic Bay Freeport have made the workers' families hungry and deprived them of education and a decent living, she said.

Makabayan and Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya members barricaded the San Fernando exit of the North Luzon Expressway to decry high toll rates.

Up north

Transport workers belonging to the Samahan ng Tsuper at Operator sa Pilipinas stopped plying their routes at selected hours to demand the scrapping of the Oil Deregulation Law.

Policemen on the Manila North Road (MacArthur Highway) blocked members of the Workers Alliance in Region III (War III) and the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) from attending a rally in Tarlac City.

War III contingents were also stopped in Angeles City and Mabalacat in Pampanga, and Bamban, Tarlac.

At 2 p.m., more than 5,000 workers from seven provinces massed at a plaza near Hacienda Luisita to denounce "landlords like the Cojuangco family," a War III spokesperson said.

Workers massed in front of the military's Northern Luzon Command at Camp Aquino demanded justice for labor leaders and workers slain in the Hacienda Luisita dispute.

In Baguio City, at least 200 workers marched.

In Pangasinan, Bayan members held a caravan, demanding wage increases and compensation for farmers displaced by the San Roque multipurpose dam.

Anger in the Visayas

More than 10,000 members of militant groups staged separate rallies in the Visayan cities of Bacolod, Iloilo, Tacloban and Cebu, and in the town of Kalibo to commemorate Labor Day.

In the largest protest in the region, some 6,000 workers joined rallies in Bacolod to demand higher wages and oppose the spiraling costs of fuel and power.

About 5,000 members of Bayan and KMU staged protests at the Bacolod public plaza.

In one of three separate rallies in Iloilo, 2,500 protesters marched on the main streets and called for the ouster of Ms Arroyo, blaming her for the worsening economic crisis and the killing of political activists.

They also demanded a P125 across-the-board wage increase.

Separate protests were held by the Alab-Katipunan, Sanlakas and the Freedom from Debt Coalition.

In Kalibo, Aklan, around 300 held a rally at the public market.

Stealing the show

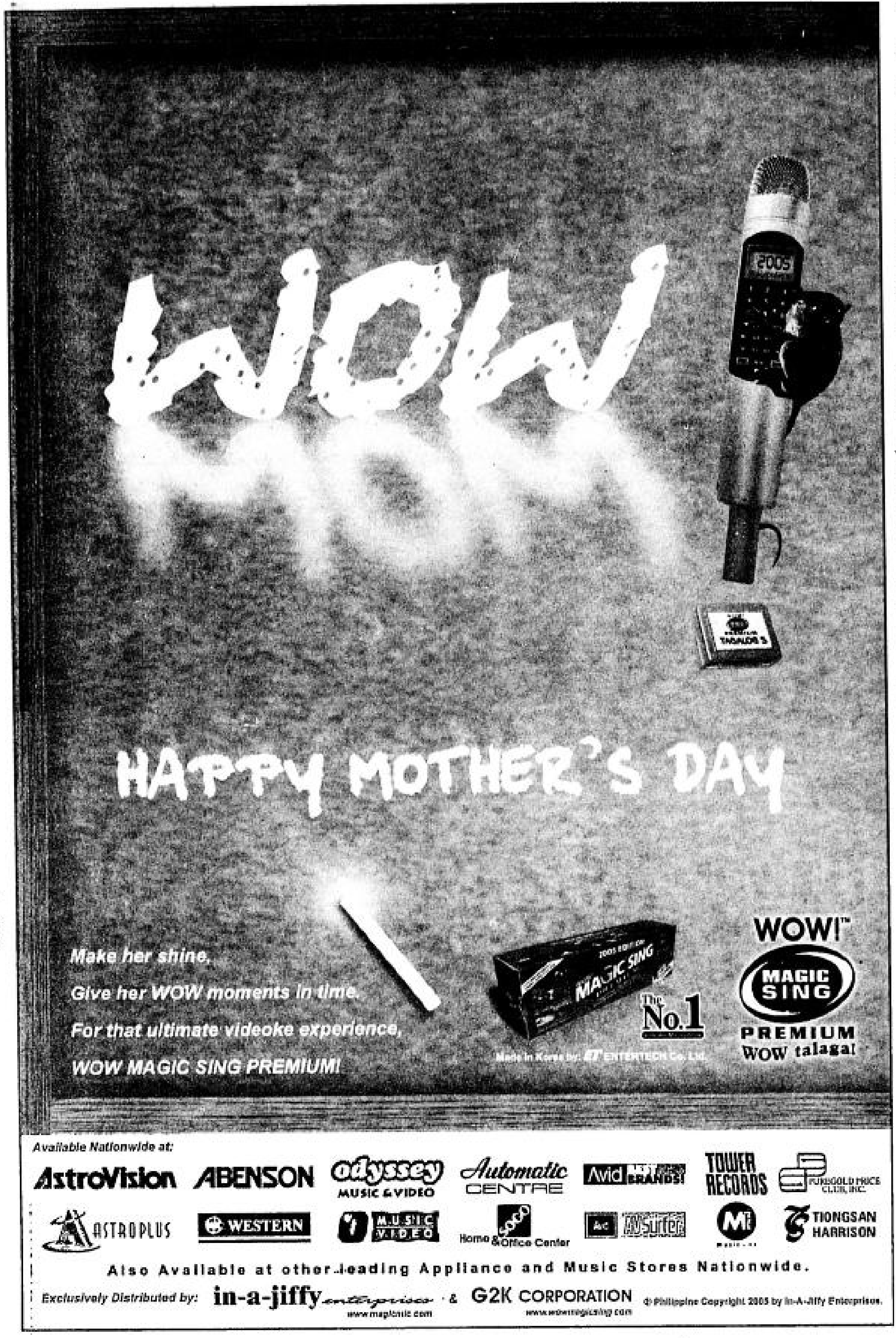
About 1,000 private and public sector workers staged protests in Tacloban. The state workers demanded a P3,000 across-the-board increase in their salaries.

Street demonstrations in Cebu were outshined by the star-studied activities of the rival networks ABS-CBN and GMA.

Crowd flocked to the Cebu City Sports Complex to watch the "SOP" variety show and take part in the Grand Kapuso Fans' Day SOP.

The Ayala Center parking lot and the Plaza Independencia were also packed with Cebuanos for the "Asap" and Asap Fanatics shows.

Hundreds of workers affiliated with KMU, Anak Pawis, Gabriela and Bayan marched in downtown Cebu City. *Reports from DJ Yap, Luige A. del Puerto, Leila B. Salaverria and Alcuin Papa in Manila; Vincent Cabreza and Nemesio de la Cruz, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Tonette Orejas and Ronaldo Dizon, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Delfin T. Mallari Jr. and Leo Martin B. Ganace, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Carla P. Gomez, Nestor P. Burgos Jr., Joey A. Gabieta, Jolene R. Bulambot and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*



AN OPEN LETTER

To All Legazpeños:

Teaching is considered as one of the most socially concerned profession. People with this profession never cease to share their tangible and intangible resources just to make sure that their community is in order. As quoted from DepEd Secretary Andrew Gonzales, "Be proud you are a teacher, the future depends on you," a heavy load is therefore placed on every teacher's shoulders.

Aside from their primary responsibility, which is to teach, additional tasks to be performed are also given to them. One of these is to serve as Board of Election Inspectors (BEI) during elections, either local or national. It has been common knowledge that teachers carry out this duty effectively, with efficiency and dignity. Everyone knows that there is an ongoing recount for mayorship in the city of Legazpi. The latest revisions revealed that approximately 200 precincts showed the opposite of the original results.

For the first time in the political history of Legazpi, the teachers' credibility and integrity are being questioned.

It is in this light that we are writing this letter. For and behalf of the teachers, we strongly object to the "new" election result being circulated, particularly in the more or less 200 precincts that showed opposite result.

To give you a clearer picture of what usually happens in a precinct, watchers from different parties surround the BEIs from the time the votes are cast, up to the submission of all election results and paraphernalia to the COMELEC office and the City Treasurer's Office. Aside from the watchers, other non-political groups, NAMFREL and PPCRV included, are present to stand as witnesses so that no untoward events would happen. All incidents are duly recorded in the Minutes of Voting. With this kind of scenario during elections, no teacher will be able to perform illegal actions or irregularities just to favor a particular candidate.

May this letter give clarification to all Legazpeños especially to those who are questioning and doubting the teachers honesty during the last election.

WE, THE TEACHERS OF LEGAZPI, ATTEST TO THE ACCURACY AND VALIDITY OF THE ELECTION RETURNS AND MINUTES OF THE VOTING THAT WE HAVE PREPARED AND SUBMITTED TO COMELEC ON MAY 15, 2004 DULY CERTIFIED BY ALL THE WATCHERS AND PARTIES PRESENT IN THE ELECTIONS, INCLUDING PPCRV/NAMFREL.

WE STAND TALL AND UPRIGHT KNOWING THAT WE HAVE NEVER TAINTED OUR DIGNITY AND HONOR AS BOARD OF INSPECTORS (BEIs) DURING MAY 2004 ELECTIONS.

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Gov't gives OFWs free trip home from Iraq

TWO DOWN, thousands more to go.

A couple of women overseas Filipino workers became the first to take up the government's offer of free flights out of war-torn Iraq after two OFWs were killed in Baghdad last month.

The Department of Foreign Affairs on Friday said the returnees, who both worked at the United States military's Camp Victory, arrived in Manila on Thursday afternoon, their airfare paid for by the Philippine Embassy in Iraq.

The two OFWs opted to come home because of the volatile situation in Iraq and because they were not being paid their salaries for working at the camp's PX shop, the DFA said.

The embassy had to provide security and employ some "secrecy" in transporting Marigold Britania and Nancy de Lara to the Baghdad International Airport for their trip home, the DFA said.

The precautions were deemed necessary after a group of five OFWs survived an ambush on the road leading to the airport two weeks ago, with two of them sustaining gunshot wounds.

For their own safety, the embassy gave Britania and De Lara their flight schedule just two hours before takeoff.

The two women first worked as laundry assistants at Camp Cooke in Taji, Iraq, last year. From there they transferred to Camp Victory to work at the PX shop operated by the US Army, Air Force Exchange Services.

Since last year, the Philippine government has barred the deployment of OFWs to Iraq. But an estimated 6,000 workers have defied this ban, lured by jobs mostly in US military camps.

Two Filipino workers were killed in separate attacks in Baghdad last month, prompting the government to launch the voluntary repatriation program that offers OFWs a free trip home. *Volt Contreras*

US to assess Sulu's needs

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Twenty-five American military experts arrived in Jolo, Sulu, yesterday morning to conduct what they called a two-week assessment of the island.

Lt. Col. Greg Wilson, leader of the US mission, told the INQUIRER they would be conducting an assessment of conflict-affected areas in Sulu.

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Alberto Braganza said the presence of the American soldiers in Sulu was covered by the Visiting Forces Agreement and that they came on the invitation of the Philippine government and the island's local leadership.

Braganza and Wilson stressed that the US troops would not engage in any military exercises but were there to assess what the people's needs were for humanitarian purposes.

"We are doing the assessment together with the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and we will look into potential humanitarian services and civil military operations," Wilson said.

He said the American experts would be conducting the assessment in full military uniform "because it's part of the plan that US soldiers will have to be seen actively engaging the local populace. We are expecting active interaction with the barangay leadership."

Sulu Gov. Benjamin Loong said he hoped the US military experts would continue the rehabilitation program that the national government started in March. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Letran-Calamba alumni set reunion

THE COLEGIO de San Juan de Letran-Calamba will hold its 2nd Grand Alumni Homecoming on May 14 beginning at 4 p.m. at the Letran grounds. College graduates from 1983 to 2005 are invited.

The homecoming has for its theme "Letran Magpakailan Pa Man." A registration fee of P300 will include dinner, a raffle ticket and a souvenir. Attire is semi-formal.

For inquiries, please contact the Alumni and Public Affairs Department at tel. (049) 8341408 or 5455453 and 5451829, local 254, and ask for Prof. Nimfa C. Gamban.

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

3 killed in Cairo attacks on tourists

CAIRO—A suicide bomber struck at foreign tourists near Egypt's most famous museum on Saturday while his veiled sister and his girlfriend opened fire at a tourist bus in attacks that left all three dead, officials said.

The bombing injured seven people including four foreigners near the Egyptian museum, a key tourist attraction for its pharaonic treasures.

The casualties were three Egyptians, an Israeli couple aged 60 and 55, an Italian man aged 26 and a Swedish man aged 28, the Interior Ministry said.

In the bus attack in south Cairo, the first in living memory by women in Egypt, the two veiled women fired three shots at the coach's back window, the Interior Ministry said. No one in the bus was hit but shattered glass lay on the road.

Two bombings targeting tourists in the last seven months have had little effect on Egypt's tourism industry, which brought in $6.6 billion in 2004, a record year with more than eight million tourists. But economists say a string of attacks in close succession could hit Egypt hard.

Health Minister Mohamed Awad Tag el-Din said the injured had superficial wounds caused by nails in the bomb. Most were in good condition, except for the Swede, whose wounds were "moderate." Prime Minister Ahmed Nazif told reporters that one of them might need to have an operation.

The two veiled women, identified by the Interior Ministry as the bomber's sister Negat Yousri and his girlfriend Iman Ibrahim Khamees, attacked on the Salah Salem highway, one of the main arteries through the south of the city.

The ministry said Negat then shot and wounded her companion and committed suicide. Khamees died in hospital of her wounds.

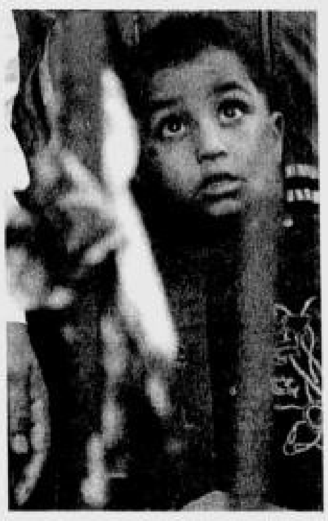
It said the man who blew himself up was Ihab Yousri Yassin, a fugitive member of the group which planned an April 7 bombing which killed three tourists in a Cairo bazaar.

He jumped from a bridge into the square below where he detonated the bomb, it said. "They found his papers, and the identity card of the perpetrator of the Azhar (bazaar) incident," the ministry said in a statement.

Police have arrested in the last few hours the two other fugitive members of the group, named as Ashraf Said Youssef and Gamal Ahmed Abdel-Aal, the ministry added.

Other security sources said someone had thrown a bomb from a bridge which passes behind the museum.

Two groups—the Mujahideen of Egypt and the Martyr Abdullah Azzam Brigades—said on an Islamist website that their people carried out the attacks. It was not possible to verify their authenticity and some of the details of their claims did not appear to match witness accounts. *Reuters*



AN Egyptian boy looks at the site of the explosion in downtown Cairo, April 30 behind a blood-stained piece of newspaper stuck to the bars of a fence. AP

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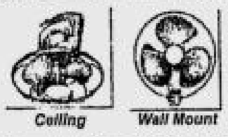

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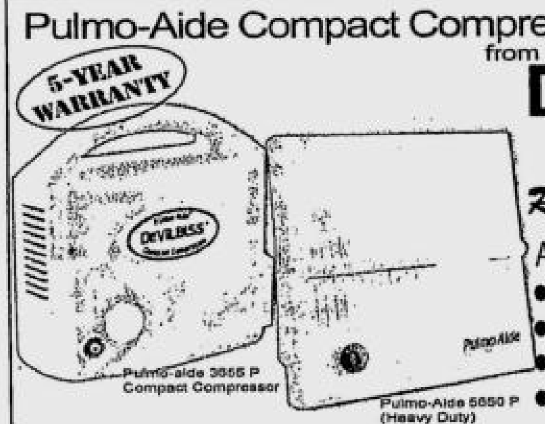

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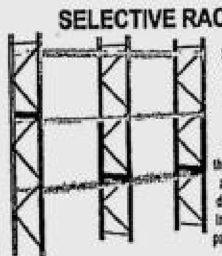

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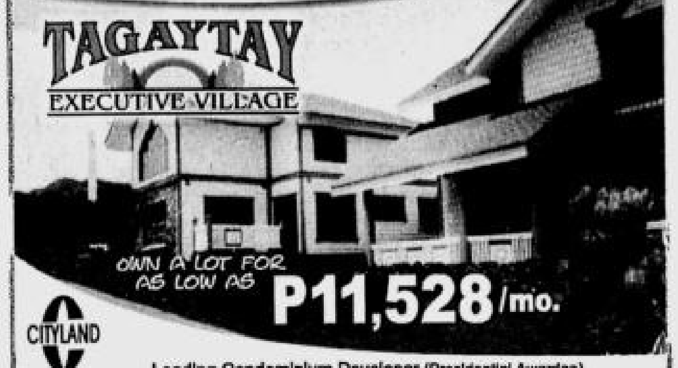

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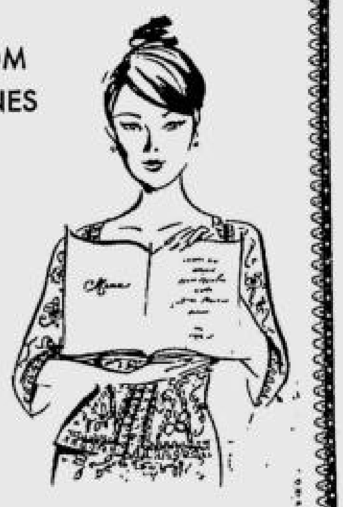

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Bush, Blair sought to topple Saddam 9 months before Iraq war, says report

LONDON—US President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair were determined to topple Saddam Hussein at least nine months before they launched the war in Iraq, British documents leaked in a Sunday newspaper say.

The secret documents could have a late impact in Britain's election next Thursday, in which Iraq—and whether the prime minister told the truth when making his case for war—has resurfaced as an issue in the final week of campaigning.

Blair has always maintained that he did not commit Britain to attacking Iraq until Saddam had been given a final chance to abandon banned weapons, and that "regime change"—overthrowing Saddam—was never his aim.

Despite hostility to Blair over his Iraq policy, polls show he is likely to win a third term in the election, though his huge parliamentary majority is expected to shrink.

Blair has been careful to say he believes the election result may still be in doubt. In an interview with the Observer newspaper, he urged anti-war voters not to cast a protest vote.

"There will be people who will feel very, very strongly over Iraq. But if they vote Liberal Democrat in a seat where the Conservatives are second, it is not policy on Iraq that will change—it's the policy on the economy, on the health service, on schools, on the minimum wage," he said.

The Sunday Times printed what it said were secret minutes of a top-level Cabinet meeting held in July 2002 to discuss Iraq, nine months before the invasion.

According to the minutes, Blair spoke to his Cabinet explicitly in terms of toppling Saddam.

"If the political context were right, people would support regime change," Blair is recorded as saying. "The two key issues were whether the military plan worked and whether we had the political strategy to give the military plan the space to work."

Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said the case for war was "thin" because "Saddam was not threatening his neighbors and his WMD (weapons of mass destruction) capability was less than that of Libya, North Korea or Iran."

Straw proposed giving Saddam an ultimatum to allow in UN weapons inspectors, provoking a confrontation that would "help with the legal justification for the use of force."

Britain's spy chief, Sir Richard Dearlove, fresh from a trip to Washington, had concluded that war was "inevitable" because "Bush wanted to remove Saddam through military action," and "intelligence and facts were being fixed around the policy."

Blair ordered his chief of defense staff, Sir Michael Boyce, to present him with war plans later that week, the minutes said.

Although many in Britain opposed the war, it has been slow to emerge as an election issue because both Blair's Labour party and the main opposition Conservatives backed it. *Reuters*

SADDAM smiling during the celebration of his 61st birthday, April 25, 1998. AFP/IRAQI NEWS AGENCY

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Malaysia assailed on over migrant labor cr

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia's controversial crackdown on hundreds of thousands of illegal migrants from poverty-hit Asian countries came under fire from rights activists as workers marked May Day Sunday.

Critics said the move to detain illegal workers showed contempt for labor rights and a weakness in the Malaysian economy that depends heavily on cheap foreign workers.

"The recent crackdown on hundreds of thousands of migrant labor exposed not only a callous regard for basic workers' rights and dignity but also a serious flaw in Malaysia's economic fundamentals," said local rights group Voice of the Malaysian People (Suaram).

The repatriation of some 400,000 illegal immigrants, mainly low-wage Indonesian workers, during a four-month amnesty that

Taiwan leader urges C

TAIPEI, Taiwan—Taiwan's president Sunday called on rival China to negotiate with his government, two days after the island's opposition chief met Beijing's leaders and agreed to seek closer ties.

President Chen Shui-bian also said he will send a personal message to Chinese President Hu Jintao, though he did not elaborate on what it would contain. Chen said he would send the message with another Taiwanese opposition leader, James Soong, who is scheduled to meet Hu during a weeklong trip to Beijing starting Thursday.

Soong's small People First Party favors eventual unification with China, but has friendlier ties to Chen than the main opposition party, the Nationalists, whose leader Lien Chan met Hu on Friday.

"Regardless which political party or leader China wants to meet, eventually it must talk with Taiwan's

Final hurdle clea Rouge justice afte

By Samantha Brown

PHNOM PENH—Thirty years after the genocidal Khmer Rouge took power, justice for millions of victims has inched closer as the United Nations cleared the way for a tribunal to try the regime's top surviving leaders.

Youk Chhang, who heads a center compiling evidence of Khmer Rouge atrocities, told AFP that the announcement represented "the beginning of a new chapter of Cambodian history." "Even after 30 years it's important for the victims to see the government respond to demands for justice. Even after 30 years, it's not too late to find justice for the survivors of the genocide," he said.

The United Nations announced Friday that the so-called Extraordinary Chambers to try those most responsible for the deaths of up to two million people can go ahead after years of debate, feuding and delays.

Pol Pot's ultra-Maoist Khmer Rouge regime seized control of Cambodia in 1975, beginning a tragic experiment that ended up decimating up to one-third of the population through torture, starvation, disease or exhaustion from the Khmer Rouge's forced labor and internal purges.

Although they were ousted by the Vietnamese in 1979, remnants fought on until 1998, the same year Pol Pot died aged 73 after being purged by a rival, dividing the nation and leaving behind a population that remains traumatized.

Defendants at the trials are expected to include top leaders from Pol Pot's regime including Nuon Chea and Ieng Sary, who both live freely in northeastern Cambodia.

"At last!" Chea Vannath, president of the nongovernment organization, Center for Social Development, said of the announcement. Her group has carried out surveys showing that most Cambodians support holding some kind of tribunal.

With judges and prosecutors still to be named, and investigations expected to take up to 12 months, trials could begin some time next year.

"I am glad to hear the process is moving forward. And because preparations have taken a long time, it means all parties concerned should have had enough time to look for any flaw, mistake or difficulty it might encounter," she said.

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Insurgent attacks kill 9 in Baghdad on 3rd day of renewed violence

BAGHDAD—Insurgents shot dead five Iraqi policemen at a checkpoint and a car bomb killed four people in Baghdad on Sunday, underscoring the dire security situation on the third day of violence since a new government was formed.

The shooting attack near a military college serving as a US military camp reinforced concerns that US-trained Iraqi forces still have a long way to go before they can take over security from American soldiers.

At least four civilians were killed and five wounded when a car bomb targeted a US military convoy near a technical college in the capital, police said. There was no word from the US military on whether any US troops were hurt.

In the three days since Iraq announced the formation of a government—after three months of negotiations—insurgents have carried out a furious sequence of bombings, including more than 15 car bomb blasts in Baghdad, killing dozens.

Iraqi officials say militants have capitalized on the months of political haggling over the government's formation to step up their attacks in a campaign that has erased much of the optimism created by the Jan. 30 elections.

The political squabbling and renewed violence also appear to have fueled sectarian tensions, with politicians struggling to balance the interests of Shiites and Kurds, who are the new powers, and the Sunnis who dominated Iraq under Saddam Hussein.

While most of the violence in the past three days has focused on the capital and nearby areas, there are still attacks in the country's traditional hotspots.

Guerrillas fired at least seven rockets into the city of Falluja on Saturday, killing three Iraqi civilians and wounding another, the US military said.

A US-led military offensive in November killed or captured hundreds of insurgents in Falluja, a former rebel stronghold, and destroyed the nerve center of the guerrillas. Since then, militants appear to have taken their operations elsewhere.

They have stepped up activities in cities such as Mosul, where the US military said a bomb hidden in a shrine killed three Iraqi civilians on Saturday, and a suicide bomber attacked an American convoy, killing two Iraqis.

A US soldier was killed by small-arms fire on Saturday in the town of Khaldiya, about 130 km west of Baghdad, raising to at least 1,206 the number of American soldiers killed in action since the war that toppled Saddam started in 2003.

Iraqi politicians want to show their people that their own security forces can defeat Saddam loyalists and militant followers of al-Qaida's leader in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, a Jordanian who is the most hunted man in Iraq, with a $25 million bounty on his head.

But America's top general said this week insurgents were as strong as they were a year ago, mounting up to 60 attacks a day, despite the presence of about 140,000 US troops and more than that number employed in the Iraqi security forces.

Guerrillas seem to be implementing a ruthless new strategy of following up one suicide bombing with a second, aimed at police and security forces who rush to the scene.

In an audio tape put on the Internet, a person purporting to be Zarqawi on Friday threatened more bombings and bloodshed in Iraq and said US President George W. Bush would not be allowed to "enjoy peace of mind."

In a reminder of the huge security challenge ahead, US Marines and Iraqi forces are having to use heavy machinery to remove vast amounts of arms and ammunition found in a guerrilla supply corridor between Falluja and another rebel stronghold at Ramadi, the military said. *Reuters*

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May Day
:ackdown

:h has left a yawning labor i's agricultural, construction, and services sectors.

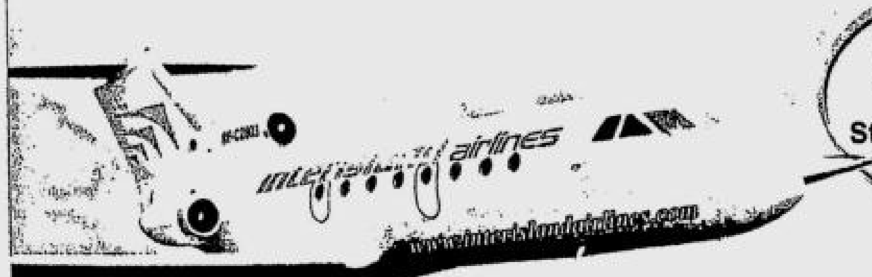
Aarch 1 crackdown, some orkers mainly from Indoneuima (Myanmar) have been nwide, Mohamad Amirudin of, director of a 300,000-ecurity force, told AFP.

l conducting raids but they er scale," he said.

ose detained have been de- others have been senerms and whipping.

ears of export-oriented in-, the government has cerned with assuaging the inational companies for a ovement and suppression ." Suaram director Kua Kia statement. *AFP*

RARE APPEARANCE Japanese Crown Princess Masako, who spent more than a year in seclusion with a stress-related illness, made a rare public appearance on Sunday as she attended a ceremony marking the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Japanese branch of Unicef. REUTERS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hina to negotiate

ularly elected leader and the Taiwan governnt, and this will be the normal dialogue to start malization of relations," Chen said before deting for a trip to the Marshall Islands in the ith Pacific.

Chen also said in a brief statement that foreign ernments have called on China to directly negoe with his administration.

he meeting between Lien and Hu was the highlevel encounter between the two sides since split in 1949. They promised to jointly promote ce and economic ties—a pledge that Taiwan's mier suggested might be illegal.

But Chen appeared to backtrack Sunday.

The opposition party can have its own views, I respect it," Chen said. Lien "did not step on the ernment's authority." *AP*

red for Khmer
er 30 years

Some Cambodians have been campaigning for ades for an international tribunal. In 1997, the ernment asked for UN assistance to set one up. tuous negotiations finally led to an agreement years later.

Under the pact, the still-controversial tribunal was e organized once pledges for three years of operas and actual contributions for the first year were ived. It is expected to cost $56 million.

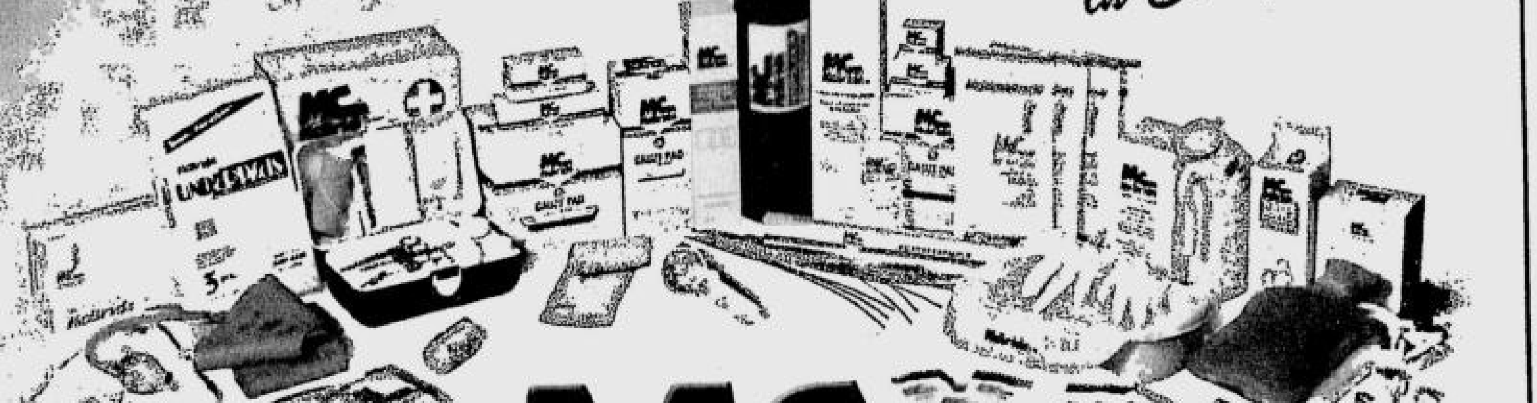
he United States is refusing to fund the tribunal, gely because of Cambodia's infamously corrupt icial system.

t is also uneasy about what may be revealed of ole supplying arms to the Khmer Rouge after its 9 ousting. Amid Cold War politics, the United es supported the Khmer Rouge keeping a seat at United Nations, even with knowledge of its ocities.

he other four permanent members of the UN Sety Council are also edgy. Together they offered ognition to the Khmer Rouge as Cambodia's lemate government for years after it was toppled.

Activists have condemned the tribunal's format ch requires one international judge to agree h a Cambodian majority to secure a conviction. y argue the formula remains too open to politiinfluence.

Some government officials, despite their public nce, are ambivalent about the process because y fear revelations about their own pasts. *AFP*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OPINION

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Ante up

EDITORIAL

IF ONE looks closely, the latest cycle of *"jueteng"* charges follows a familiar formula. First an anonymous source sets the stage by claiming specific but confidential knowledge. (The other week, it was a high-ranking official in the Philippine National Police.)

Then a national personality steps into the limelight, sharpening the suspense by asserting similar or related information. (Last week, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, a former PNP chief, claimed he knew who the source was and who the new alleged key players were.)

Then like a restless cast, the rest of the political class rushes to the stage. (This week, we have yet another Senate committee investigation about to commence, chaired by Sen. Lito Lapid.)

We can expect the story to run for several more weeks, because it has all the elements of political box office: sensational intrigue retailed by anonymous sources, a Senate hearing on a favorite but illegal numbers game, the strategic agitation of pro-Estrada forces and, not least, the mouth-watering possibility that for the second time in five years the jueteng trail may lead to the very doors of Malacañang.

What are we to make of this? We've seen this show before, and there is no denying its blockbuster appeal. Public interest is unarguably at stake. But precisely because we know this storyline all too well, we also know that talk, especially of the anonymous kind, is cheap.

We urge the ranking PNP officer to shed the cloak of anonymity and come forward. His allegation that three new political personalities—M1, M2 and JS7, all of whom emerged, he said, after President Macapagal-Arroyo won a full term last year—now control a substantial part of the illegal game is an incomplete revelation; he must come right out with proof positive.

He cannot rely on the media to complete his task; it is the journalist's job to report the news, not to make it.

He also cannot rely on the Senate to conduct the police's anti-jueteng campaign for them; inquiries in aid of legislation may result in new laws, but enforcement is the province of the executive, through agencies such as the police. Besides, do we really need new laws to crack down on jueteng?

It is of two minds then that we received the news of the Senate probe, which enjoys the backing of key Arroyo ally Senate President Franklin Drilon. The police officer's allegations were designed to be aired in just such a public forum; they have clearly followed the pattern of political scandals set in the first years of the Arroyo presidency.

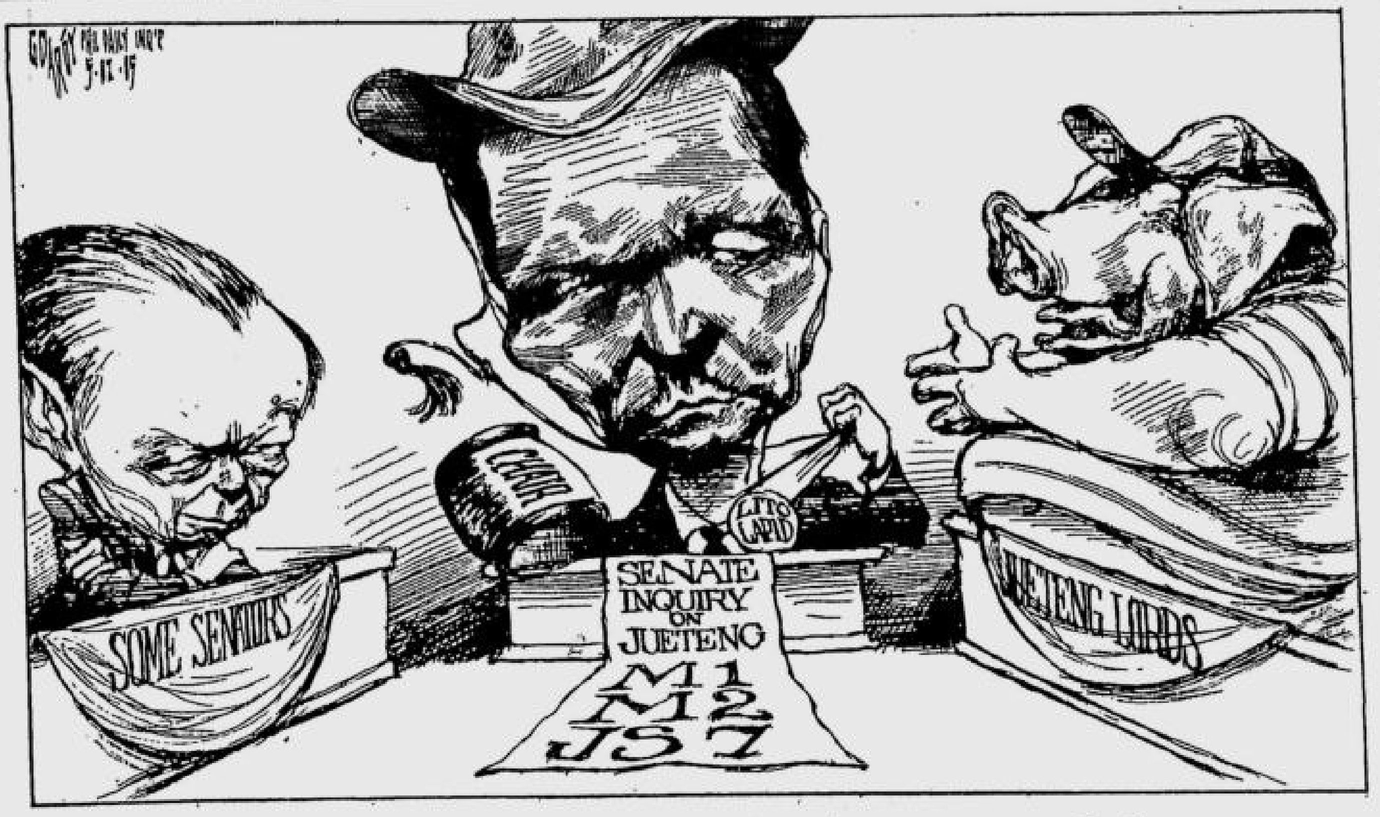
And yet, precisely for that reason, we have serious misgivings about the Senate committee investigation.

The naming of Lapid as chief investigator may be procedurally logical, but it raises substantive issues. The most important concern Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. has already pointed out: Lapid is from Pampanga, and was in fact governor of the province when it became a center of the illegal game. The claims of the anonymous police officer allege a Pampanga connection too. Naming Lapid in charge of the inquiry can only undermine its credibility.

But concerns about the substance of the allegations also persist. This scandal does not yet have a Teofisto Guingona, who famously accused President Joseph Estrada of various crimes in a privilege speech that was short, and sharp on rhetoric but long on evidence. It does not yet have a Chavit Singson, who stunned the country by revealing Estrada's complicity in jueteng operations in great detail and with telling impact.

All it has, for now, is a presidential rival, Lacson, who has supported similar anti-Arroyo initiatives in the past, even delivering privilege speeches long on rhetoric and short on evidence. All it has is a police official who is convinced that a new set of key players has taken over jueteng, but lacks the courage of his convictions.

A Senate hearing may bring proof to the surface. Or it may not. That is precisely the problem with it. The source will do the country a signal service if he comes out and names M1, M2 and JS7 now.



GMA should learn from the lessons of the past

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

THE GROUPS wanting to topple President Macapagal-Arroyo may just be crackpots, but the administration should not dismiss them so cavalierly. People think and wish for a violent change when they lose hope that the government will institute reforms. We may be seeing history repeating itself.

In most revolutions of the world, the people revolt after years—even decades—of asking their rulers to institute reforms, only to have their pleas fall on deaf ears.

In our own case, Andres Bonifacio's Katipunan launched the Philippine Revolution of 1896. Before that, Filipinos had been denouncing for decades the abuses of the friars and the Spanish colonial government and asking Spain for reforms. Jose Rizal, Marcelo H. del Pilar and the other propagandists even went to Madrid to lobby for reforms. The Spaniards didn't listen to them. Losing hope, the desperate Filipinos revolted. The Spaniards thought that the barefoot Indios had no chance against their better-trained and well-equipped soldiers. But the Filipinos had already beaten them when the Americans stepped in and imposed their own brand of colonialism. Before that, there were many smaller revolts—Dagohoy's in Bohol and the Silangs' (Diego and Gabriela) in Ilocos, among others. They were like the symptoms of a major disease dismissed by the colonizers as nuisances.

In recent history, President Marcos thought he had everything under control, including the military. In 1986, he decided to entertain the people with a semblance of an election and then cheated to win, a feat he had done successfully in the past. But this time, he wasn't so successful. The people were fed up with being cheated.

But who would have thought that the rabble at Edsa, without guns or even bolos, could beat back his trained soldiers with their machine guns, tanks, artillery and planes? To Marcos then, they were just a "nuisance." But that "nuisance" chased him and his bodyguards out of Malacañang all the way to Hawaii.

Once the people found out they could topple presidents with people power, they became emboldened. They tried several times to topple President Aquino but failed. They succeeded with President Estrada.

And they're trying it again with GMA.

GMA should already have learned from the lessons of the past, but like the earlier rulers, she is hard-headed, stubborn, over-confident and even arrogant. Like her predecessors, she is dismissing the "new propagandists" as mere "nuisances" and she should not lose any sleep over them.

But like the dengue-carrying mosquito buzzing around your ear, it may be a mere nuisance now but it could kill you. Even Christ was dismissed by the Romans as a mere "nuisance," one of many weirdo messiahs that plagued the Holy Land at the time. Look what He did to them.

If GMA is as bright as she thinks she is, she should not dismiss these new "weirdos" as mere "nuisances" that are best forgotten. She should take them seriously. They are symptoms of something more terrible—like a simple headache or gut pain could be a symptom of an impending stroke or heart attack. In much the same breath that the Dagohoy and Silang revolts led to the Philippine revolution, the Oakwood mutiny and today's "nuisances" could be leading to the big one. The big earthquake that topples buildings is often preceded by smaller ones, as the big stroke or fatal heart attack is often preceded by smaller ones dismissed as "nuisances."

GMA shouldn't dismiss that old man at Club Filipino as a mere "nuisance." He could be like the blind man warning Julius Caesar to "beware the ides of March," and she should take his words as a serious warning. For he personifies so many other Filipinos so desperate for reforms and changes, so fed up with corruption and abuse that they are willing to take a chance.

GMA should not be so cocksure and overconfident. Marcos and Erap were. Look what happened to them.

* * *

Speaking of warnings, Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes should look at what is happening in the municipality of Lupao, Nueva Ecija. According to its residents, there is a "reign of terror" in that town, perpetrated by its officials with the assistance of a battalion of soldiers.

The town has a new mayor, reportedly a former sergeant in the Avsecom. One of the first things he did when he assumed office was to suspend 11 veteran municipal employees—civil service eligibles who have been working there for as long as 11 years. First, they were ordered to sweep the market with brooms to humiliate them into resigning. Some of them were department heads, even professionals (doctors and engineers), but they were made to sweep the market like janitors. When they didn't resign, they were suspended indefinitely.

The employees complained to the Civil Service Commission and the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman issued a suspension order against the mayor, effective for six months. But after a couple of weeks, it made a complete turnaround and lifted the suspension. The CSC, meanwhile, is taking a very long time resolving the illegal indefinite suspension of the employees who have been deprived of their means of livelihood to support their families.

The mayor reportedly returned with a vengeance, that is, with a battalion of soldiers. There are checkpoints everywhere, and anybody who goes into the municipal hall is bodily searched. The taxpayers, residents of Lupao included, are paying for the battalion that has been transformed into the private army of the mayor.

Secretary Reyes had just dismissed an entire police contingent in Abra for abuses. The Armed Forces should do the same thing to its contingent in Lupao. For his part, Reyes should discipline the mayor.

Civil servant

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

FIRST off, how many Filipinos have been killed by Hueys since those airborne coffins found their way into Villamor Airbase? I don't know if anyone is keeping tabs. I do know that has been a subject of controversy over the years, a furor arising every time the thing bursts in the air or just decides to stop flying. All that support for the Iraq invasion, at the cost of imperiling the lives of our OFWs in the Gulf, and all we get are Hueys?

I don't particularly mind that they explode or go into a tailspin when they are ferrying a bunch of military officers, bureaucrats and sundry prospectors to golf courses or prospective logging sites. That is when they prove most useful. But I do mind when they do that to—what has become almost a contradiction in terms today—government workers who are doing their jobs.

Second off, over the last few years, I've been writing plentifully about the deaths of some of the finest human beings to have trod this benighted patch of earth. They have been largely artists. For reasons that are not always easily explained by God's mysterious ways, they have been epically decimated since the start of the new millennium. Last year alone, there were about eight of them, Nick Joaquin leading the pack. That isn't mysterious, that is unfathomable. Easy to see, if God truly loved Filipinos, whom he would first summon to Peter's gates before casting them to the chasm below.

I never personally knew Raymundo Punongbayan, but I've always held him in the deepest respect. I however knew one of the other victims there. He is Norman Tungol, the brother of friends of mine. He was still in school when we used to visit their apartment near Cubao in the early 1980s, which had become a virtual underground house. Most of the members of the family, whose combined IQ shot past the roof, had turned activist and were fighting to topple down martial law while toiling to snap up degrees in various sciences. They succeeded famously in both.

Clearly, the driving force of activism, which is encapsulated in the phrase, "serve the people," never died in Norman. I don't know if the other victims shared that spirit, I'd like to think they did. All of them had a boss who was its very embodiment. You are a decent, hardworking, selfless boss, you'll have a decent, hardworking selfless staff. You are a smug, unprincipled and self-aggrandizing boss, you'll have, well, the creatures that stalk Malacañang. Ah, but what a mournful thought, the Tungols gathering in Floridablanca, their hometown, on their fiesta, which is May 1, with a coffin in their living room. My deepest condolences.

As to Punongbayan, I've always thought that if anyone lived up to his name, he did. He was *punong-bayan*, head of the community—or even head of the country, *bayan* referring to both high and low, country and community—in every sense of the word. He exemplified the true meaning of the term, "public servant." A term public officials routinely attach to themselves, but which only makes you wonder why it doesn't burn them like a crucifix does Dracula.

That Punongbayan was a servant is patent. He served. He served his government, he served his country, he served his people. He was serving when he died, inspecting Gabaldon and neighboring Dingalan, and the various towns in the Prelature of Infanta that had been devastated by landslides last December. From merciless logging—but that is another story.

He and his staff were trying to find safe resettlement areas for the affected families when the US-donated, Vietnam-vintage chopper conked out on them the way the logger-ravaged, age-old earth fell on the Gabaldon folk last Christmas. By rights, Punongbayan should no longer be doing it. He had retired from Phivolcs after thrusting it to international fame not just by predicting the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo—an inconceivable thought at the time, Mt. Pinatubo having slept quietly for half a millennium—but by diligently keeping watch over the geological threats to the planet, quite apart from this country. Which were more obdurate than the much touted terrorist threats. And Punongbayan kept his vigil infinitely more quietly and efficiently.

He was civil in the finest sense of the word. He it was who made "lahar" and "magma" household words, explaining them among other concepts with a simplicity and sense of wonder with which he lived life itself. I never saw him on TV in coat-and-tie and talking above people's heads. He literally always had his sleeves rolled up, ready to soil his hands in the earth, and spoke with a humility that made you demand from God why he did not make other Filipino officials that way. He had earned a reputation for being one of the best scientists in the world and could easily have made a fortune consulting with world organizations or multinationals. He preferred instead to stay home and do something for his less fortunate brethren.

"Daddy died a poor man," his daughter Lulu said, saying they still rented the same apartment they had for years. "But he left us with the wealth of his name."

Ah, but that is the only true wealth there is. And if so, then he died one of the richest men on earth. He was the epitome of a civil servant. He was the epitome of a good man. He will lie eternally in our hearts, like the volcanoes in the heart of this country.

This administration's officials would do the country a favor if they would look at him, reduced to nothingness by the bang that saw him off, and see themselves through the mirror that he casts. Better still, they would do the country a favor—the presidential couple, in particular—if they would make a routine inspection of the *jueteng* dens of Pampanga.

Aboard a Huey.

FVR says no

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

FORMER PRESIDENT Ramos did the country a big service by stressing he has nothing to do with the group of retired Maj. Gen. Fortunato Abat, which is advocating the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo through people power, her replacement by a "revolutionary council," and the abolition of Congress. FVR stressed that Abat's idea won't succeed as the people, especially the military, are tired of destabilization efforts.

In this country we know that nothing good comes out of such efforts; that councils or juntas offered as political panaceas don't work. Good governance is achieved from day to day through political will and by strengthening check-and-balance institutions, not by knocking them down.

But the problem is that the international press picks up the local press' continued attempt to link FVR to Abat, who used to be the former's defense secretary. This could affect the confidence of foreign investors, especially since FVR is held in high regard abroad. His categorical rejection of support for Abat's group should clear the air and isolate it as a bunch of aging Marcos loyalists bereft of rational thought or following. The media ought not to waste precious space and airtime on something so counterproductive to political stability.

* * *

In contrast to Abat's group, FVR continues to play the role of a statesman, whose broad experience in international trade diplomacy comes in handy for the Philippines and the region. During the visit of Chinese President Hu Jintao last week, I caught FVR, who co-chairs the annual World Economic Forum in south China, in a TV interview where he elaborated on the huge role that Asean's 10 nations—with their 450 million people (a huge market in any language)—could play as mediator between China and Japan in their current tiff. FVR also called on the two giant Asian economies to resolve their conflict peacefully and de-escalate the tension in the region, so that they could instead work for its stability and development.

* * *

Earlier, I said that the photo showing Chinese President Hu Jintao and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi talking to each other at the recent Afro-Asian Summit in Jakarta was most reassuring. Japanese Ambassador Ryuichiro Yamazaki sent me a copy of Koizumi's speech in Jakarta, where he recalled the historic significance of that gathering which celebrated the 50th anniversary of the original Afro-Asian meeting in Bandung, also in Indonesia, hosted by the late President Sukarno. Koizumi stressed that in Bandung—10 years after World War II ended—Japan declared its determination to develop itself as a peaceful nation, and that "this spirit remains steadfast to this day."

* * *

Koizumi emphasized that the development of Japan—from a war-ravaged nation 50 years ago to a First World economy—came about through the tireless efforts of its people, as well as the assistance extended by the international community. 'Japan will never forget this fact," he said, stressing that from a militarily aggressive nation, it has become the lead agency for poverty reduction and development in Asia. It has committed 0.7 percent of its gross national income to official development assistance (ODA), and RP draws its biggest ODA from Japan.

* * *

But the most significant point Koizumi made was his apology for the "tremendous damage and suffering to the people of many countries, particularly those of Asian nations," caused by Japan's "colonial rule and aggression." He stressed that his country "squarely faces these facts of history in a spirit of humility" and "feelings of deep remorse and heartfelt apology" amid its resolve to "solve all matters by peaceful means, without recourse to use of force."

* * *

Note that a big source of conflict between Japan and China, South Korea and even RP has been the feeling in these countries that Japan has twisted historic facts about the war. Tensions have escalated between China and Japan over these "historical distortions," triggering violence such as the one that greeted the Japanese baseball team in Shanghai. RP has been dragged into the problem after a Chinese assaulted a Filipino tourist family in Tiananmen Square on suspicion that they were Japanese, resulting in the death of two of its members.

Koizumi has sought to straighten out history with his "heartfelt apology" unprecedented for its frankness and candor. As Yamazaki pointed out, it is "self-evident" that the apology was made "not for China alone, but to all countries involved, including the Philippines." This should help smooth whatever ruffled feathers there still are and move Japan and the affected countries to help the region.

* * *

The Philippine Air Force's fleet of Huey helicopters has been grounded pending the completion of the investigation into the recent accident that claimed the lives of former Phivolcs chief Raymundo Punongbayan and eight others. More than any other flying machines, the Hueys are the workhorses of the government in this country where rough terrain abounds. Thus, they have to be in A-1 condition and the government cannot compromise on standards; it has no choice but to channel resources to purchase working Hueys and ensure their maintenance.

* * *

Sen. Panfilo Lacson made a big thing out of the claim of an unnamed PNP officer that relatives of a top government official are collecting *jueteng* money to facilitate the illegal numbers game. Lacson whetted the public's insatiable appetite for exposés by claiming he knows the PNP officer whose identity he reportedly disclosed to Senate President Franklin Drilon. But now Lacson says that "as far as he is concerned, this PNP officer will flunk the 'credibility test.'" If the PNP officer is not credible, where does that leave the story of M1, M2 and JS7?

My lost Precy

HIGH BLOOD

Wendy dela Cruz Prijoles

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

THIS story begins with its end looming large in my mind.

I have a lot of cousins, but Precy stood out above all the rest. Don't get me wrong, I love all my cousins, and all of them have had a profound impact on my life. What set her apart, I should say, was her family's old wealth, her intelligence and unique personal style—she was almost queenly.

Her mother, Nanay Onie, was my mom's sister. I remember: whenever Nanay Onie bought a pair of earrings for Precy, I would have a set, too. If she had a new dress, almost always I would have one, too. Precy and I were practically of the same age, you see. Oddly enough, the fashion sense inculcated in us did not rub on me. But Precy carried on as expected.

Their mansion was just opposite our modest house; theirs was a landmark you wouldn't miss in this historical town of fallen heroes. We were young and free. And life was great.

As we approached adolescence, we became even closer. Our high school days together at St. Paul's Parañaque even strengthened our *barkadahan*. We would go to dances, have our pictures taken at studios and enjoyed suitors no end. Education for her was relevant to existential enrichment, and she strove for perfection in every academic endeavor she went into. It did not come as a surprise to me when, while teaching at a prestigious college in Manila, she pursued and earned her doctorate at age 60. She was that determined.

Before that, things took a slight detour when she married Jun, a Navy man and also a Kawiteño. Her new status meant relocating to the States. They had three wonderful children: Junie, a doctor, and Baby and Marissa, both nurses—all are now residing in the States. From the occasional stories I heard from Nanay Onie then, Precy and her family led a low-key and quite life in the suburbs.

She eventually came back after a few years with her grown-up children in tow and settled yet again in our town. Very much like Precy, I said to myself, for I, too, can never be uprooted from this little town of ours.

We immediately bonded and picked up where we left off; funny, with our own children to help fill the gaps in those times we were far from each other. With noticeable crow's feet, a few strands of silver gray hair (I, already widowed at that time), we had much more to share in wisdom and experience. And with all our childhood friends around, we enjoyed a renewed sense of being in midlife. And life was great.

Precy laughed easily. In parties, the joker was sure to sell his wares because she appreciated even the most mundane jokes. A bump and a grind could literally make her day. We enjoyed telling jokes because we knew that she would reward us with a laugh no matter how corny we got. Life was simple, but still great.

That is why I can never imagine that things will take a wrong turn for Precy and Jun that fateful morning in November.

A frantic call jolted me, and it shattered me to the core of my heart and soul. Precy and Jun had been murdered inside their mansion, brutally killed on the spot. The manner by which their lives were ended would be too much for me to recount in detail. As reality set in and stared in my face, my knees weakened, my shattered soul fell into a stupor. I felt cold and frayed, endless questions flooding my mind, mostly addressed to God. I could not fathom how two people, kind and generous to their townsfolk, unimposing of their stature, doting parents even to their children all grown-up, could die this way. It's so unfair! If my tears were lethal enough to take the life of the person who killed them, he could've instantly died running away from his crime. But most of all, my heart bled for their children. Regaining my faith, I made my peace with God.

Astonishingly, leads to the motive for the killings and the identities of the killers swamped the authorities right there and then. It turned out to be another drug-related case. A junkie-thief killed Jun and Precy, just like that.

It was a funeral like no other. Two horse-drawn carriages carried the identical caskets of Precy and Jun, plodding along the once hero-laden street of our town. History was made anew, for I had never witnessed a funeral so well attended, the two-way traffic put to a halt. A sea of people lined the streets, silently sharing in our grief. I saw some holding back their tears, and I would look away almost instantly for I, too, was not so sure anymore how to contain my own grief and composure. They were strangers to our family, but our allies in a time of extreme pain and sorrow. As we reached our majestic church, it was already filled to the wings and beyond with people.

The people of Kawit mourned. But I thought they mourned even more for themselves, for they knew that they were no longer safe in their own homes, not even in broad daylight, not in this so-called quaint, little town of ours. They knew that drugs—prohibited drugs—could literally poison even the most abstemious among us.

The mansion is awfully quiet now but I can still feel the pain deep inside me. Nowadays, I just want to remember Precy and Jun, sans the unspeakable darkness of the past. Our families have to move on.

But I know my quaint, little town is safe no more. And my heart bleeds again.

Wendy dela Cruz Prijoles, 66, is a retired private employee and doting grandma to Ltrimm, Ltrell and Tffee.

Liberation's other side

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

OVER THE ENCAMPMENT flew a yellow flag with red stripes. I asked my guide what the flag represented. "That," he said, with a sort of stifled pride, "is our flag, the flag of South Vietnam." This was in the early 1990s, a quarter century after the government once represented by that flag had ceased to exist. And we weren't in Vietnam, but in Palawan. For the exiles, the flag represented nostalgia for the homeland and defiance of the communist government that had taken over it.

Conditioned to believe that the war to reunify Vietnam was a titanic struggle of national liberation, and that the eventual victory of communist Vietnam was a great nationalist victory, I initially looked at the flag as a kind of affront. This was a puppet regime's flag; the symbol of a corrupt, despotic client-state that never enjoyed popularity or legitimacy. Yet, here were Vietnamese, a quarter century after the great and glorious reunification of their country, who preferred the uncertainties of foreign exile to a sovereign existence back home. And worse, they retained affection for a symbol that—I had been confidently told—never achieved respectability in its day.

My guide in the refugee camp told me that all Vietnamese wanted unification, but not everyone wanted unification on communist terms. When Vietnam was partitioned into North and South in 1956, there were those who fled the North and found refuge in the South. Many of these refugees were Catholics, fearful of communist persecution. The end of the Vietnam War, which claimed the lives of three million Vietnamese and 58,000 Americans, my guide soberly told me, was not the end of the sufferings of the Vietnamese people.

When South Vietnam fell, 135,000 Vietnamese fled to the United States. These were mainly officials, officers and soldiers of the defeated government. But then during the period 1975-77, about 20,000 more Vietnamese fled, mainly Catholics facing religious persecution. This was the other side of liberation, my guide told me: liberation by mass arrests, "reeducation camps," and the supervision, then repression, of religious worship. "They looked down on us," one of them told me, "instead of treating us like brothers, they persecuted us."

In 1978-79, another migration began, triggered by the Vietnamese government's decision to close all private retail businesses (the classification included street vendors), confiscate private lands, impose higher taxes and eliminate the country's Chinese merchant class. The "boat people," numbering over 90,000, were hastily settled in temporary camps in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Hong Kong.

From 1979 to 1982, a third wave of refugees, composed mainly of the relatives of those who had already fled and numbering roughly 200,000, left Vietnam, creating a humanitarian crisis, and one of a particularly tragic nature. Many of the refugees before 1978 came from the elite or middle class; this time those fleeing Vietnam belonged to the masses—farmers, fishermen, the uneducated and poor—that Vietnam's communist government claimed to serve.

The problem did not take into account the Amerasians, the mixed-race offspring of American fathers and Vietnamese mothers, called "*bui doi*," or "the dust of life," by the new unified government. Caught in a legal limbo, discriminated against by their own government, they couldn't leave Vietnam because the United States would only take them as refugees fleeing repression. The Vietnamese government refused to give them permission to leave, as doing so would entail a public admission of its policy of discrimination. The US Congress eventually passed a law allowing Amerasians to be admitted into the United States under the category of "immigrants," entitled, however, to the benefits of refugees. In this manner, about 100,000 Amerasians were able to leave Vietnam.

The attention of the world drifted away from the plight of the Vietnamese in the late 1980s, as most of the refugees found new homes, and Vietnam gradually turned its attention to rebuilding the economy along less stringent Marxist lines. There remained, though, isolated pockets of refugees still stuck in transit camps, including the one in Puerto Princesa, Palawan. At one point, it seemed as if the Philippine government would forcibly shut down the camp, and it was because of this dire possibility that I went to Palawan, to see what could be done about the refugees. A Vietnamese nun had originally contacted my father, by then bedridden, asking him to speak out, knowing our family's heritage of helping political refugees. Eventually, President Ramos relented, and the refugees were able to enjoy some measure of security.

On the 30th anniversary of the Fall of Saigon, a great parade was held in (what is now called) Ho Chi Minh City. A CNN report says "Concerned that too visible a show of 'triumphalism' could harm crucial economic ties with the United States, now Vietnam's biggest trading partner, Hanoi made sure this year's celebrations were as much about the future as the past…In a sign of the times, some parade floats, sponsored by Vietnamese banks, sported the logo of American credit card companies. One float featured women pushing shopping carts loaded with supermarket goods." This is the new Vietnam, officially socialist but more interested in capitalist advancement.

I can't help but wonder how much more could have been achieved if, instead of persecuting Catholics, imprisoning the middle class, arresting street vendors and oppressing fishermen and farmers, Vietnam had done from the very beginning of unification, what it is doing only now.

* * *

Comments welcome at www.quezon.ph

Housing program faces virtual death

COMMENTARY

Anna Marie A. Karaos
Institute on Church and Social Issues

SUCCESSFUL, well-targeted and cost-efficient poverty alleviation programs are hard to come by. When we find one that works, we do our best to preserve it and give it the institutional fortification needed to enable it to function better. This is the reason why a group of non-government organizations have been pleading with the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. (NHMFC) to release the funds for the registration and operationalization of the Social Housing Finance Corp. (SHFC). The SHFC was created to manage the Community Mortgage Program (CMP) and other government subsidized home-lending programs for poor families. Unfortunately, the NGOs and NHMFC are now engaged in an acrimonious conflict that could leave the CMP as its biggest casualty.

Why is the NHMFC resisting the transfer of the CMP to the SHFC?

When the NHMFC was established, its mandate was to facilitate the creation of a secondary mortgage system in the country so that housing projects principally being undertaken by the private sector could be financially sustained through the purchase and sale of home mortgages. A secondary mortgage market is essential if we want a steady and market-based source of funds for housing projects so that we do not have to depend on government for such funds.

Failing to do what it was created to do, the NHMFC in the '80s and '90s went into home lending. Under the Unified Home Lending Program (UHLP), lending for housing projects by government financial institutions was centralized in the NHMFC. This turned out to be a major disaster—catastrophic even, because it drove the NHMFC to actual bankruptcy after accumulating billions of pesos in bad loans. In the time of President Ramos, its financial position had so deteriorated that Pag-Ibig had to bail it out to the tune of P8 billion, so that housing developers collecting on their mortgages with the NHMFC could be paid.

For this reason, the UHLP was scrapped during the time of President Estrada, and the NHMFC was made to stop its lending operations, except under the CMP.

The NHMFC was directed to concentrate on collecting its outstanding loans while it continued to administer the CMP. This is how the NHMFC came to the present situation, in which the CMP is the only lending program it operates. This is also the reason why the NHMFC is fighting tooth and nail to keep the CMP.

Because of the NHMFC's far from sterling record in home lending, some NGOs and communities concerned with the CMP lobbied for the transfer of the CMP to a separate institution that could properly function as a lending window specializing in socialized housing, or housing for the urban poor and low-income families. This separation would protect the CMP funds, which are wholly sourced from the government budget, from being used for other purposes besides the CMP. This also made good sense institutionally since the NHMFC's original and principal mandate is not lending for socialized housing.

In December 2003, the NHMFC board approved the creation of the SHFC to be the new entity that would then manage the CMP. But at present, it seems that the NHMFC, under its new president, is no longer as committed to seeing this new institution come to life. In fact, the NHMFC board, in its meeting last March 28, approved a new set of policies for the CMP that could spell the virtual death of the program as a non-traditional and community-driven financing scheme.

Under the CMP, urban poor families, organized as a community association, borrow money from the government to purchase land. What makes the scheme innovative and cost-efficient is the fact that the beneficiaries negotiate the terms of the purchase directly with the landowner. This very important feature of the CMP is in danger of being done away with once the new rules are implemented.

Under the new policies, the land sale would become a transaction between the NHMFC and the landowner. At the risk of sounding paranoid and cynical, arrangements like this are too vulnerable to rent-seeking and corruption. But even more important, the new arrangement takes away from the community the responsibility and control over the land acquisition process, the very thing that has made the collection efficiency of the CMP better than that of any other housing program of the government. The scheme has been working well for the CMP's urban poor beneficiaries. The question is, why is the NHMFC now suddenly changing the rules?

According to the NHMFC, the changes it wants to make will reduce documentary requirements and speed up the processing of CMP loan applications. Shortening the processing period is a welcome objective, no doubt. But this can be achieved without compromising the most essential feature that makes the CMP so successful.

In place of the community mortgage, the NHMFC will now execute a contract-to-sell with the community association. This new scheme will look very much like the housing programs of another housing agency, namely, the National Housing Authority, whose collection efficiency record has been as bad as, if not worse than, that of the NHMFC.

What we have is a situation where an agency is not only usurping or duplicating the functions of another agency but is also replacing a well-designed program with one that has been proven to be really bad.

Clearly a very messy situation is developing here. Vice-President Noli de Castro—who, as chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, also chairs the NHA and NHMFC boards—had better straighten things out in his department.

Meanwhile, the immediate registration of the SHFC and the transfer of the CMP to its jurisdiction are being stalled, for which the NHMFC still has to offer a credible explanation.

THEY SAID

Silent role

"I am his wife and you wouldn't want a wife speaking out for her husband."

—Susan Roces, explaining why she did not want to be the late Fernando Poe Jr.'s, spokesperson during his campaign

Masked religiosity

"I suppose many of our policemen are deeply religious. They don't just show it because they have to protect this macho image."

—Rev. Fr. Rey Urmeneta, head of the Philippine National Police Chaplain Service

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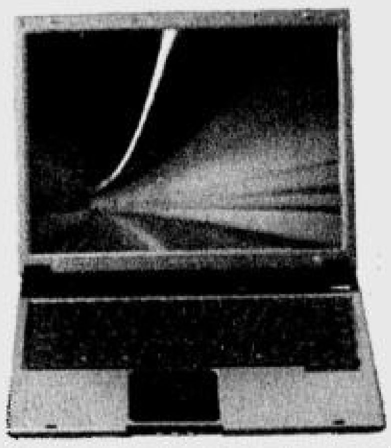

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Feudal structure of public transportation industry

LETTERS PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

IN THE PAST few weeks, drivers of public transport vehicles are simmering with rage. And the summer heat has nothing to do with it. Transport strikes and rallies against the oil deregulation law will continue, ironically, even if the law is repealed.

The oil companies are the most convenient scapegoats. What drivers are not aware of are the two fundamental reasons for their sad plight. These are: (1) the feudal structure of the public transport industry, and (2) the archaic regulatory regime over which the Land Transportation and Franchising Regulatory Board presides.

The feudal relationship between bus and jeepney owners, on one hand, and the drivers, on the other, is the main culprit. At the heart of this relationship is the age-old boundary system—where drivers pay a fixed daily amount to the owners, regardless of fare revenues. Under this system, drivers assume the business risk while the owners are guaranteed an income—regardless of ridership and fare levels.

When fuel prices go up—without corresponding adjustment in fares—the drivers absorb the higher cost and cannot pass it on to the passengers. Diesel fuel has gone up by 51 percent from a year-ago level; but fares were allowed by the LTFRB to go up by only 22 percent. For drivers, that translates to an income lesser by at least P300 per day, assuming the boundary fee remains the same. On the other hand, commuters have to shell out an additional P5.20 per day for every round trip.

The government, through the LTFRB, is an unwitting accomplice in the sufferings of drivers. In air transport, the corporatized airlines can pass on the higher cost via a fuel surcharge mechanism without waiting for the Civil Aeronautics Board's lengthy public hearings. In water transport, the fares (except for third class passage) can be automatically adjusted by the corporatized shipowners to reflect higher fuel cost even without prior approval by the Maritime Industry Authority. But this flexibility for enterprise to survive is not allowed in land transport. Why the inequality?

Over the same period, the fares on the three LRT lines have remained static—thanks to the populist decision of President Macapagal-Arroyo—but at the expense of taxpayers who do not even ride the railways. As a consequence, more commuters are shifting from buses and jeepneys to rail transit. Add the fact that in summer, schools are closed, thus reducing passenger volume in Metro Manila by about 20 percent. These factors combine to squeeze further whatever meager income bus and jeepney drivers earn.

—RENE S. SANTIAGO,
past president,
Transportation Science Society
of the Philippines, renesan@myway.com

Hollow reason for use of 'Rubaiyat' quote

THIS is in reference to the "controversy" stirred by the Supreme Court after it used lines from Omar Khayyam's "Rubaiyat" in its decision throwing out Susan Roces' petition to substitute for her husband in the latter's electoral protest.

I do not agree with the justification given in Belinda Olivares-Cunanan's April 2 column, where she said that "the ruling was personal to the ponente who expressly wrote that the quote is 'my view on the providential case for our consideration,' and not the Court's." That excuse simply does not wash.

The collective responsibility of the Court cannot be detached from the ponente's responsibility, especially in cases where all the justices render a unanimous decision. Surely, the more senior members of the Court, who are presumed to have greater wisdom and moral ascendancy, should have corrected everything they deemed inappropriate or insensible in the decision, including matters of grammar and syntax, before signing it.

—DIOSDADO V. CALONGE,
Office of the Special Prosecutor,
5/F Sandiganbayan Bldg., QC

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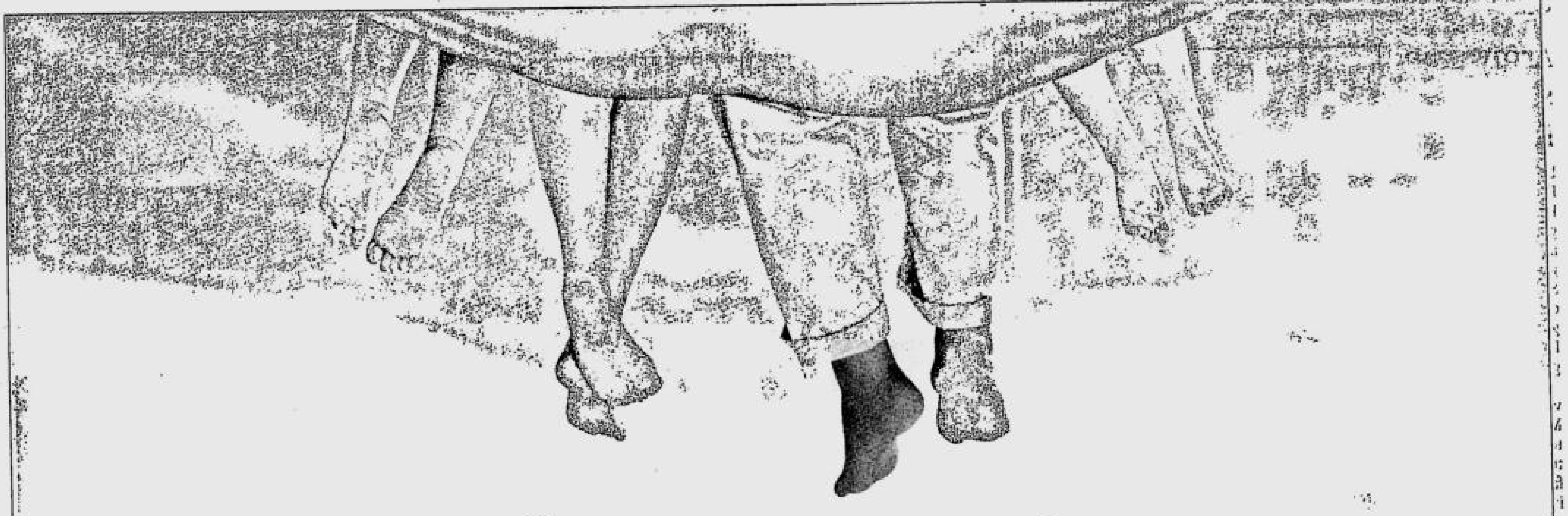

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KMU says Cordillera labor force welcomes foreign-backed mines

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The Kilusang Mayo Uno in the Cordillera admitted on Labor Day that the region's workers were happy about new foreign-backed mining ventures now allowed by the Supreme Court, after being retrenched and abandoned for decades by their former Filipino employers.

Lorico Espejo Jr., KMU Cordillera coordinator, said the region's high unemployment rate, which was triggered by the deterioration of its mining industry in 1992, could account for this sentiment.

About 614,000 of the 31.6 million labor force were from the Cordillera as of January, according to the 2005 Philippine labor force survey.

But the region has 76,000 underemployed and 46,000 unemployed, including 20,000 retrenched or abandoned miners and their families, Espejo said.

Many of the country's poorest provinces belong to the Cordillera, according to the National Economic and Development Authority.

Espejo said the KMU and the Cordillera Peoples Alliance, an indigenous peoples' rights group, plan to draw up their own cost-benefit analysis of a revitalized mining industry that is being pushed by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Mining is still exploitative," Espejo told some 200 KMU and mine unionists who joined the workers' rally here yesterday.

Union militancy was born in the Cordillera during the 20-year regime of strongman Ferdinand Marcos because of the excesses of mining operators, Espejo said.

The KMU joined other non-government organizations in opposing the 1995 Philippine Mining Act because it violates a 1987 Constitution that prohibits foreign investors from owning 100 percent of mining ventures, he said.

But in citing the country's poor economic health, the Supreme Court ruled that the mining industry is exempt from these constitutional restrictions.

The local labor force has reflected on the benefits of "having foreign masters," and workers are convinced that foreign administrators are more professional and "more sensitive" to the workers' plight compared to Filipino employers, Espejo said.

Many of the country's oldest mines were born in Benguet at the turn of the 20th century, and were established by American firms.

Espejo himself is a union veteran of Benguet Corp., the country's oldest mine, which used to employ 7,000 workers until 1992.

He said many union workers prefer the stewardship of the firm's American owners than those of Filipinos because workers won more benefits from the foreigners.

The Cordillera remains critical of mining, after many of its oldest mine operations closed unceremoniously decades ago, Espejo said.

But majority of the active mine ventures in the country were spearheaded by Benguet-born mine firms and contribute $4.5 billion to Philippine investments this year.

NGO worker found dead in Davao

KIDAPAWAN CITY—More than a month after he went missing, humanitarian worker Benjie Laguialaot was found dead in Bansalan, Davao del Sur on Saturday.

Police believed that Laguialaot, a community organizer of the Community and Family Services International (CFSI), suffered tremendous pain from the hands of his still unidentified killers as seen in the torture marks on his body.

Laguialaot was assigned in a Manobo community in Carmen, North Cotabato. The last time his family saw him was on March 5 in the town of Kabacan, few kilometers away from his base.

A colleague in CFSI said Laguialaot went missing two days after he went to a bank in Kidapawan City.

But the co-worker dismissed robbery as the reason behind the disappearance because the amount Laguialaot withdrew was "too small to invite trouble."

"We are calling on the authorities to act on this," Lagi Padi, Laguialaot's aunt, said. *Jeffrey Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Indigenous practices urged to protect resources

By Desiree Caluza
and Nemesio de la Cruz
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

MALIBCONG, Abra—Elders in the Cordillera said strong adherence to the indigenous practices in the region would protect their lands from the entry of large-scale development projects.

In a resolution during the 21st Cordillera Day here on April 24, the elders said unity among the tribes, as enhanced by the *bodong* (indigenous peace pact), would stop big corporations from exploiting their resources.

"Indigenous systems are still used to defend our land and resources from those who want to exploit them. We want to strengthen our *bodong* so we can unite ourselves from any [group who would] exploit our resources," Marcus Bangit, secretary general of the Binodngan Peoples Organization (BPO), said.

"This resolution is a challenge to all councils of elders as well as to the Cordillera youth to unite at all costs. We should stop engaging in tribal wars, we have to fight the common enemy—the large-scale mining industry, large dam builders and loggers," said Jose Cawiding, convenor of the Metro-Baguio Tribal Assembly.

But tribe member Francis Dulag, son of Cordillera martyr Macli-ing Dulag, said they were hoping to forge a peace pact with the members of the Betwagan tribe.

"Making peace with the Betwagan tribe was one of the reasons we came here," he said. "We do not want war anymore [because] we already lost many lives. We could not return to our farms because of fear that we would be killed because of the ongoing tension."

Dulag's father led the opposition to the construction of the Chico Dam in the 1970s. A respected tribal chief of Bugnay village, the elder Dulag was shot and killed on April 24, 1980 by government soldiers for leading his village mates in protesting the dam project.

Banag Simunlag, a friend of the elder Dulag, said a peace pact between the elders of feuding tribes in Kalinga and Mt. Province at that time united the tribes and fought to stop the dam's construction.

Reports from the regional Mines and Geosciences Bureau showed that at least 70 percent of the land area of the Cordillera have pending mining exploration applications.

"Through sharing of the various tribes' experiences, we learned that our indigenous practices such as *bodong* and *dap-ay* (elder's council) are still strong in defending our lands and resources," Cawiding said.

Army man shot dead in Negros

BACOLOD CITY—Four suspected New People's Army rebels gunned down an unarmed Army intelligence operative on Saturday night at Hacienda Santo Domingo, Barangay San Pablo, Manapla, Negros Occidental.

Killed on the spot was Sgt. Tranquilino Malcredo, 32, an intelligence operative of the Army's 11th Infantry Battalion based in La Carlota City.

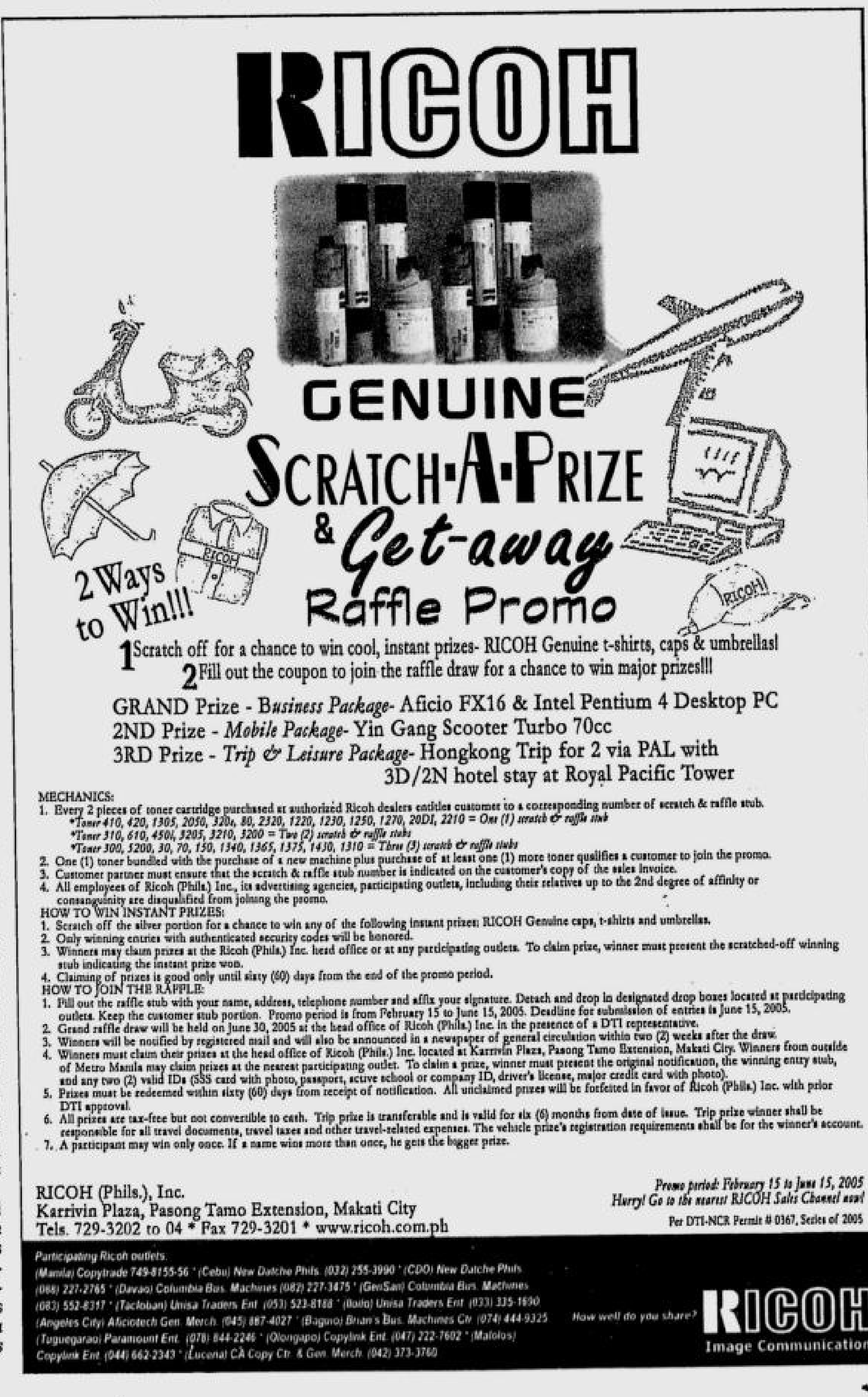
Malcredo was assigned to the Manapla area.

Lt. Col. Abraham Bagasin, 11th IB commanding officer, yesterday said that Malcredo was on his way to the town proper when waylaid by four unidentified armed persons, one of them a female, who shot him without any provocation.

Bagasin said three of Malcredo's assassins were armed with .45 caliber and 9mm pistol, while another was equipped with an M-16 assault rifle.

The killing of Malcredo, a resident of Kabankalan City, came a month after the 11th IB revealed that the NPA was out to assassinate Lt. Van Kristoffer Sumbeling, who led Army troops in several armed skirmishes with the NPA in Guihulngan, Negros Oriental and Isabela, Negros Occidental.

Bagasin reminded military and police personnel in Negros to maintain their vigilance against the assassination activities of NPA hitmen. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*



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HOW TO JOIN THE RAFFLE:
1. Fill out the raffle stub with your name, address, telephone number and affix your signature. Detach and drop in designated drop boxes located at participating outlets. Keep the customer stub portion. Promo period is from February 15 to June 15, 2005. Deadline for submission of entries is June 15, 2005.
2. Grand raffle draw will be held on June 30, 2005 at the head office of Ricoh (Phils.) Inc. in the presence of a DTI representative.
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4. Winners must claim their prizes at the head office of Ricoh (Phils.) Inc. located at Karrivin Plaza, Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City. Winners from outside of Metro Manila may claim prizes at the nearest participating outlet. To claim a prize, winner must present the original notification, the winning entry stub, and any two (2) valid IDs (SSS card with photo, passport, active school or company ID, driver's license, major credit card with photo).
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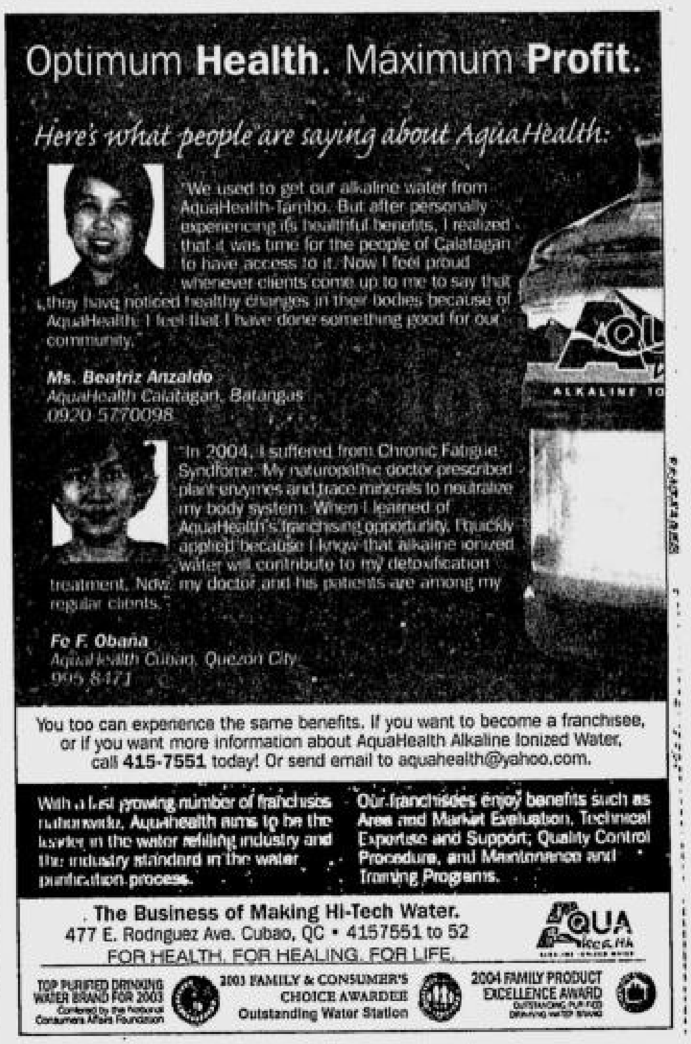

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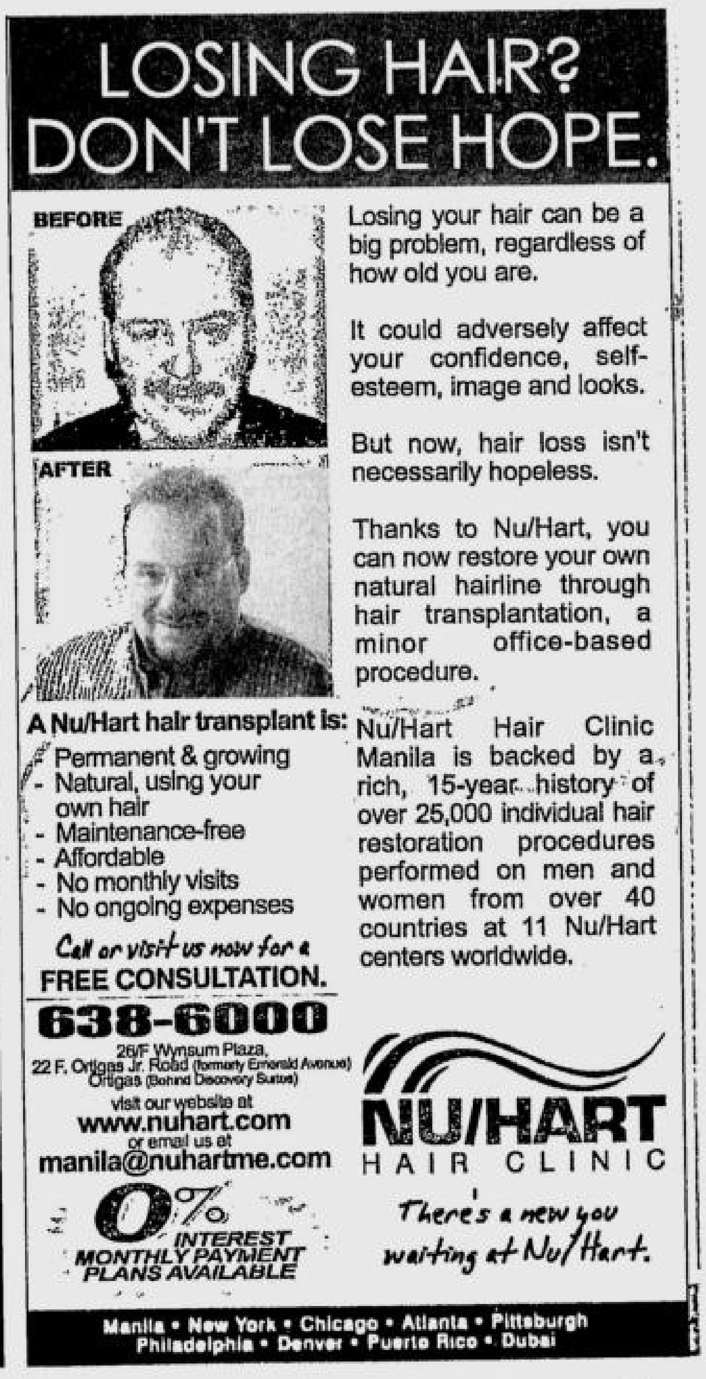

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Dead dolphin found during Pangasinan sea fest

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—As this town holds a thanksgiving celebration for the bounties of the sea through the Pista'y Dayat (sea festival) this week, a dead dolphin was found in Barangay Maniboc, the area where the festivities started more than 40 years ago.

Fishermen in the village found the dead spinner dolphin (*Stenella longirostris*) at about 7 a.m., Wednesday, some 30 meters from the shoreline.

The seven-foot long dolphin had several deep wounds and bruises all over its body. Village officials said the wounds could have come from either bullets or arrows.

Elizardo Laureta, Maniboc barangay chief, and other village officials took the dolphin to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources research center in Dagupan City where it was buried at the cemetery for endangered species.

Laureta said the villagers did not butcher the dolphin because they were aware of the laws protecting sea mammals.

In the 1960s, fishermen in Maniboc started trooping to the beach every May 1 to thank God for the bounties of the Lingayen Gulf.

The villagers would bring food during the festivities and bathe in the sea to cure their various ailments.

The activity was later adopted by the provincial government and turned into a week-long celebration. ***Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Breeding site for rare RP deer put up

By Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—A transport magnate operating a fleet of buses in the Visayas and Mindanao is putting up a captive natural breeding site for the endangered Philippine Spotted Deer (*Cervus alfredi*) in Barangay Cabatuanan, Basay, a town more than 120 km south of here.

Charlie Fabre, Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (Cenro), said Ricardo and Olivia Yanson of Vallacar Transit Inc., which owns the fleet of Ceres Liner buses, initially established a 3-hectare breeding site for spotted deer in 2003 in a government lot in Cabatuanan.

The site has since expanded to 10 has but the target is to increase the area to 30 has, Fabre said.

"It is a natural breeding site because the area is a natural habitat of the spotted deer," Fabre explained.

It is part of the 757-hectare government land that the Yansons had reforested under the Integrated Forest Management Agreement entered into between them and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in 2003.

PHILIPPINE spotted deer

Under the agreement, Yanson will reforest the area and harvest the trees. The partition of the proceeds was still being studied by the DENR, Fabre said.

"What is important," he said, is that a "private individual assumes the responsibility of reforesting a denuded land and takes charge in the management and protection of the area without any expense from the government."

Fabre said only one offspring, from the original three females and two males, have been produced because the people manning the site had no expertise in running the breeding project.

In fact, Fabre said, there was a time that a deer suffered a miscarriage because the personnel did not know that she should have been separated from the rest of the group.

But Fabre said the problem could now be addressed with the entry of the Center for Tropical Conservation Studies (Centrop) based in Silliman University.

Steps were also being taken to establish a foundation to manage the area, he said. With the foundation, financial and technical support can be sought from various sources to ensure an effective management of the breeding site.

Fabre said the Yansons' undertaking is a good example of a private sector getting involved in ecological preservation.

"The Yansons will not earn on this endeavor. In fact, they have been spending for it. The fencing alone of the breeding site already costs them about half a million pesos," Fabre said.

Ricardo Yanson had told him that getting into the breeding of the endangered spotted deer was the Yanson family's way of returning to the community the many blessings they have received, Fabre said.

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- 11 May - Launch of Photojournalism Competition
The Delegation of the European Commission (EC) to the Philippines with the support of The Podium and The Philippine Centre for Photojournalism, Inc. and other partners launches a photojournalism competition with the theme "Pagtutulungan: Enhancing EC-RP Development and Economic Co-Operation".
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- 16 May - ECCP Golf Tournament at the Sta. Elena Golf Club, Manila eccp
- 18 - 31 May - "Stockholm Horizon", Gallerie Y, Third Level, Glorietta 4, Makati City
Renowned Filipino artist Manny Baldemor features Stockholm in his mixed media painting exhibition. Opening reception on 18 May, in Gallerie Y, by invitation only.
- 19 May - European Luxury Products Showcase Launch, Rustan's Makati
Get ready to spend a night of infinite fashion as Rustan's, the arbiter of fashion and luxury shopping, in cooperation with the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines and the EC Delegation, present a show of pure European chic to launch the European Luxury Products Showcase.
Rustan's eccp
- 2 - 15 May - "Shangri-La Opens its Windows to Europe"
Shangri-La Plaza, Mandaluyong celebrates Europe in 2005 with dances, songs and sports showcase.
Shangri-La Plaza
- 2 - 15 May - "It's Only the Colour of the Shirt that Counts"
An exhibition of football memorabilia
Level 4, Shaw Boulevard
(Acknowledgement: Adidas)
- 6 May 7:00 pm - "On a High Note"
Concert of popular European arias
Grand Atrium, Level 2
C-Futures
- 8 May 3:00 pm - British Council's "Mummy Dearest"
Concert by the British Council-assembled youth orchestra comprised of string players from Cebu's Peace Philharmonic Philippines plus wind, brasses, and percussions from the Philippine Youth Symphonic Band, to be conducted by Scott Stroman of the Guildhall School of Music.
Grand Atrium, Level 2
- 13 May 7:00 pm - "¡Baile!"
Flamenco Dance Concert
Grand Atrium, Level 2
- 7 May - European Union Cup
Now is your chance to select your favorite horse at this special Saturday EU horse race in Sta. Ana Race Track, Manila.
- 9 May - European Day Reception in Manila
A reception to mark the friendship between the European Union and the Philippines. By invitation only.

http://www.delphl.cec.eu.int

Europe Month Celebrated in Manila and in Cebu this May 2005

The Delegation of the European Commission to the Philippines in cooperation with the European Union Member States' embassies and partners is celebrating Europe Month in May 2005 through a festival to showcase the best of European arts, business and sports.

The festival is being held to mark the growing relationship of Europe with the Philippines and to celebrate the founding of the European Union.

Europe Day which is celebrated on 9 May marks the founding of the European Union when French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman presented his proposal on the creation of an organised Europe, indispensable to the maintenance of peaceful relations. This proposal, known as the "Schuman Declaration", is considered to be the beginning of the creation of what is now the European Union.

Growing from six Member States in 1952 to 25 in 2004, the European Union embraces more than 450 million people with the accession of Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia. The other EU Member States include Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands (comprising the founding members); Denmark, Ireland, United Kingdom in 1973; Greece in 1981; Portugal and Spain in 1986 and Austria, Finland and Sweden in 1995. Bulgaria and Romania are scheduled to become Members on 1 January 2007. Croatia has been accepted as a candidate for membership and former Yugoslav Republic Macedonia, also applied for membership. Accession negotiations are also ongoing with Turkey.)

From 2 to 15 May 2005, the Shangri-La will present "Shangri-La Opens its Windows to Europe", an initiative of the Shangri-La Plaza and the British Council with the support of the Delegation of the European Commission to the Philippines and all the EU Member States' Embassies. The festivities will open on 2 May with a football memorabilia exhibition titled "It's Only the Colour of the Shirt that Counts". Football aficionados will get the opportunity to see original football posters and shirts from popular teams from the European Union. This exhibition ends on 15 May.

On 6 May, a concert of European arias by notable performers "On a High Note" is also slated at 7:00 p.m. Tenor Nolyn Cabahug and his sister Liza, a lyric soprano, join avant-garde violinist Jay

Cayuca, alternative music icon Cynthia Alexander, R and B specialist Judith Banal, rocker Butch Montejo and jazz guitarist Johnny Alegre will bring to life well-loved hits from Europe under the musical direction of Bobby Gomez.

The British Council will present a concert "Mummy Dearest" on 8 May at 3 p.m. in time for

Mother's Day celebrations by the British Council-assembled youth orchestra comprised of string players from Cebu's Peace Philharmonic Philippines plus wind, brasses, and percussion from the Philippine Youth Symphonic Band, to be conducted by Scott Stroman of the Guildhall School of Music.

On 13 May, students of master choreographer Guillermo Gomez Rivera mount "Baile!", a pulsating and highly colourful revue of dances from various regions of Spain in a special performance at the Grand Atrium starting at 7:00 p.m.

For lovers of horse races, the Sta. Ana Race Track will present the "European Union Cup Racing Festival" on 7 May with races named after each of the European Union Member States' embassies represented in the Philippines.

The Podium and the Lufthansa Airlines launch a month-long raffle bonanza "Shop your way to Europe" for shoppers with the main prize being a trip for two to Europe. To complement this raffle, a travelogue showcasing posters of European destinations will also be mounted throughout the celebrations.

In addition to this, the Delegation of the European Commission to the Philippines with the support of The Podium and The Philippine Centre for Photojournalism, Inc. and other partners will launch a photojournalism competition with the theme "Pagtutulungan: Enhancing EC-RP Development and Economic Co-operation".

On 12 May, the Delegation of the European Commission to the Philippines will hold a lecture about the European Union at the University of San Carlos in Cebu. A Europe Day reception will also be held in the evening of 12 May in Cebu.

Rustan Commercial Corporation, Stores Specialists, Inc, and the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) will showcase the latest luxury brands in Rustan's Makati from 13 May to 5 June. This "European Luxury Products Showcase" will be launched on 19 May.

The ECCP will hold a golf tournament at the Cebu Golf and Country Club in Cebu on 13 May and at the Sta. Elena Golf Club on 16 May.

Renowned Filipino artist Manny Baldemor features "Stockholm" in his mixed media painting exhibition from 18 to 31 May at Gallerie Y, Third Level, Glorietta 4, Makati City.

Further details regarding this celebration may be obtained from http:// www.delphl.cec.eu.int.

Media Contact, Thelma Gecolea, Phone 8595100

Rice farmers suffer from defective seeds

SAN MATEO, Isabela—Farmers in Tabuk, Kalinga, have lost rice crops because of defective hybrid seeds they bought from private firms that were supporting the government's hybrid rice commercialization program.

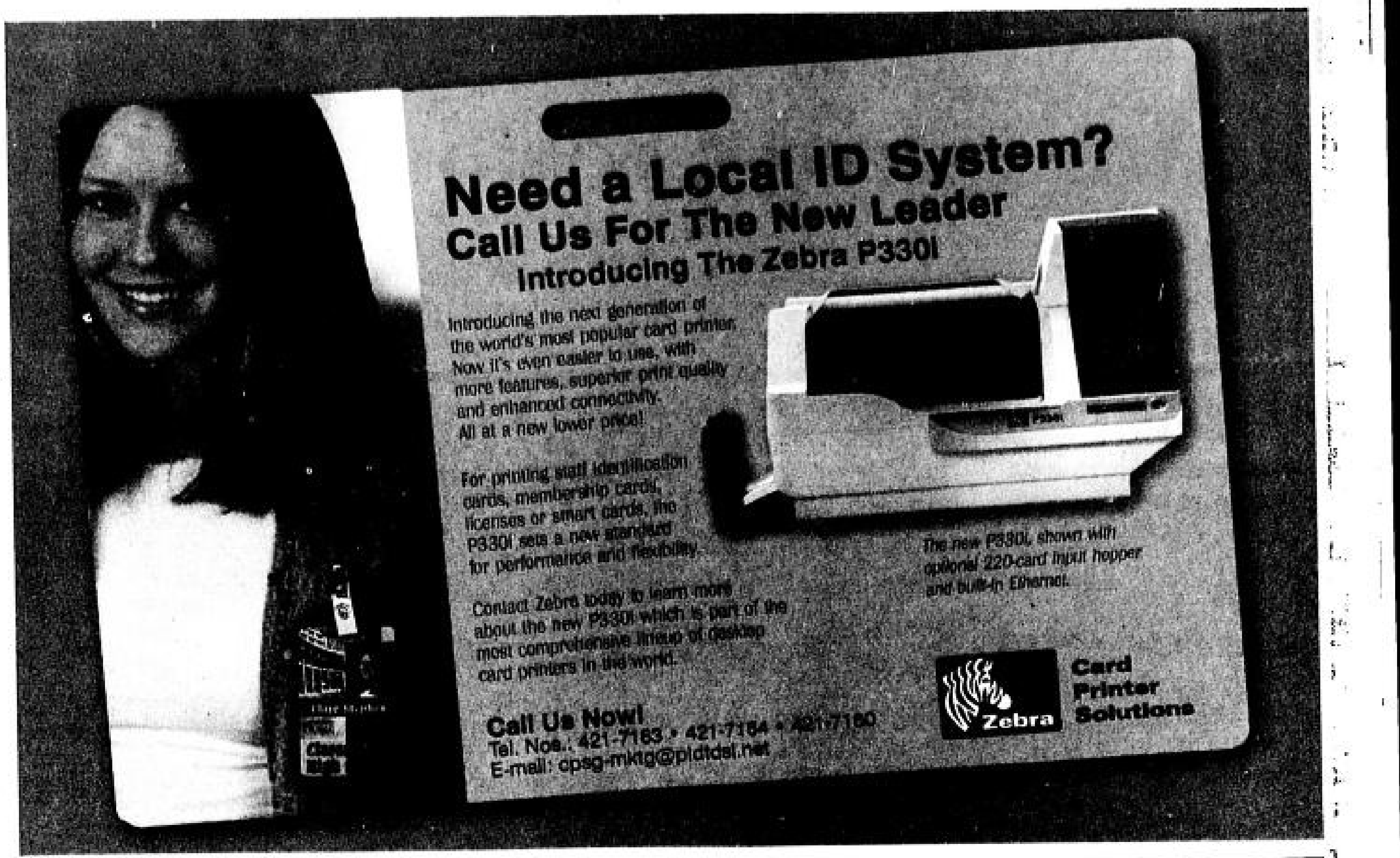
Vic Casimero, Philippine Rice Research Institute manager here, said although the percentage of crop failure was "very nil" compared to the total rice farms in the province, he has formed a task force to investigate why the hybrid rice seeds failed.

The farmers went to the Tabuk agricultural office to complain that they suffered "substantial losses" in rice crops and sought help in tracking down the people who sold them the seeds.

Casimero said the crop failure in Kalinga is considered a partial sterility status, way below the dominant crop failure reported two years ago in Isabela and Cagayan. "But this is an isolated case," he said.

In April 2003, a similar crop failure was reported where at least 200 rice farmers in Isabela and Cagayan suffered production losses after planting Magilas 500 hybrid seeds, a produce of a multinational company.

The hybrid rice commercialization program of the Department of Agriculture and PhilRice is part of President Macapagal-Arroyo's effort to create more jobs, ensure food security and reduce poverty in rural areas. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*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ROUNDUP

Less water flow

MALIBCONG, Abra—The accidental burning of trees last year at the Baseng Watershed in Barangay Poblacion here has caused the reduction by about 30 to 40 percent of the water flowing into rivers and going into households here, village officials said. Teodoro Bincutan, Baseng Watershed project manager, said half of more than five hectares of land planted with narra, mahogany and gmelina was burned. Malibcong is Abra's version of Baguio because it has a vegetation and climate similar to the country's summer capital. Severino Langbayan, an official of Barangay Poblacion, said the forest fire occurred in December last year when three children tried to start a fire to warm themselves.

Artha Kira Paredes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Cassava program

IGUIG, Cagayan—Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap and Japanese Ambassador Ryuichiro Yamazaki launched the Cagayan cassava program here on Friday. Gov. Edgar Lara said the program, in cooperation with San Miguel Corp. and the Department of Agriculture, would create jobs for at least 4,000 Cagayanos. Under the program, farmers would plant cassava in about 50,000 hectares of idle land in Cagayan, Lara said. The DA will provide the farmers training and farm inputs while SMC would buy the product from the farmers. The Japanese government has also given the provincial government 1 million yen to rehabilitate a small water impounding project in Iguig town.

Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Appeal for more bridges

BAGUIO CITY—Baguio Rep. Mauricio Domogan has appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo for funds to build more bridges in the Cordillera under the President's bridge program. In a statement, Domogan said at least 22 bridges under the program have been completed in remote villages in Mt. Province, Abra, Kalinga, Apayao and Ifugao. But he said the region still needs more bridges to increase production and develop rural areas in the Cordillera. Danilo Itay, an engineer of the regional Department of Public Works and Highways, said at least 50 steel bridges are scheduled to be built in the region but construction could not start due to the lack of personnel, equipment and funds and the problem of acquiring right of way. *Cherry Ann Palaganas, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Judge suspended

SAN MATEO, Isabela—The Supreme Court suspended a municipal trial court judge here for six months for ignorance of the law and abuse of authority. The SC, in a recent administrative decision penned by Associate Justice Consuelo Ynares-Santiago, also fined Judge Cesar Dumlao P10,000 for his failure to comment on the complaint filed against him. Dumlao was found guilty of approving search warrants and bail bonds for cases filed outside the jurisdiction of his court. "When a judge displays an utter lack of familiarity with the rules, he erodes the confidence of the public in the courts' ignorance of the law by a judge can easily be the mainspring of injustice," the SC said.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Cop execs train

BAGUIO CITY—Fourteen officers of the Philippine National Police are leaving next week for Louisiana to attend a five-week training on antiterrorism strategies. The training, which is sponsored by the United States government, will be held from May 9 to June 17. Senior Insp. Amador Orcino, chief of the Baguio police's explosive ordnance disposal team, will represent Cordillera in the training program.

Marie Joyce Godio, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Stop trek, pilgrims urged

TUGUEGARAO CITY—The Department of the Interior and Local Government has asked officials in Piat, Cagayan to stop pilgrims from trekking to three springs there whose water was reported to have healing powers. Since the healing powers of the water were reported, thousands of pilgrims have gone to the springs, forcing local officials to enclose the area. The Department of Health here has sent samples of the water taken from the springs, some 2 km from the Basilica Minore of Our Lady of Piat, to its Manila office to test if it is harmful to drinkers or bathers.

Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Salamat sa pag-asa!

Dahil sa mga mantika, harina, asukal, bigas at asin na sagana sa dagdag sustansyang Sangkap Pinoy (Bitamina A, Iodine at Iron) mas tatalino at mas lalakas na kami. Sa Sangkap Pinoy, mas dadami na ang magkakaroon ng pag-asa.

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Pinirmahan kamakailan ng Pangulong Gloria Macapagal Arroyo ang Executive Order 382, ang panukalang tuwing ika-7 ng Nobyembre ng bawa't taon ay **Food Fortification Day.**

Ang food fortification ay ang pagdadagdag ng mga micronutrients gaya ng Bitamina A, Iron at Iodine sa pagkaing kinakain araw-araw. Kailangan ng katawan ang micronutrients upang ito'y manatiling malusog, malakas at matalino.

Ayon sa mga nutrition surveys na ginawa ng Food and Nutrition Research Institute sa buong Pilipinas, ang Micronutrient Malnutrition ay isa sa mga laganap na problemang pangkalusugan sa ating bansa. Sanhi ito ng mga sakit gaya ng malubhang karamdaman sa mata (kulang sa Bitamina A); kahinaan sa pag-iisip at kakulangan sa karunungan (kulang sa Iron); at goiter (kulang sa Iodine).

Ugaliing kumain ng mga pagkaing fortified o may dagdag sustansiyang Bitamina A, Iron at Iodine. Hanapin ang **Diamond Sangkap Pinoy Seal** na ito sa mga mantika, harina, asukal, bigas, at asin.

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Bid for Palawan region pushed

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—It may not be sooner but Palawan wants a separate region rather than be clustered with the Western Visayas Region.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, during her visit in the province last April 13, told local government officials that there was a possibility that Palawan would be transferred to the Western Visayas region from the Mimaropa (Mindoro-Romblon-Marinduque-Palawan) region, which used to belong to the Southern Tagalog Region.

Gov. Joel Reyes confirmed the plan weeks ago.

He said in a radio interview that he was also told by Land Reform Secretary Rene Villa, who is also the special Cabinet officer for Palawan, that Mimaropa has no opportunities for growth because it has no budget.

While Reyes acknowledged the fact that Palawan has more economic ties with the Visayas than the rest of Mimaropa provinces, he said he preferred a separate Palawan region.

But he said he could not do anything when the President decides on it because it does need a referendum where Palaweños could say "yes" or "no."

But a Palawan geologist moved to defy the plan. "The time is ripe," said Dr. Jose Antonio Socrates, also a medical doctor and the provincial government's special adviser on Malampaya geological issues, "to elevate Palawan to a region, and its municipal clusters, in turn, to provinces."

He said that while the plan to include the province in Western Visayas has not yet been acted upon, the Palawan region should be worked on by now.

He said two or three provinces can be made and named Northern, Southern and Central Palawan, with Puerto Princesa City as a chartered city and the regional center.

Northern Palawan will be composed of Calamianes and Cuyo archipelagos as municipalities and Coron as the city.

Central Palawan could have Taytay City, and the mainland Palawan. *Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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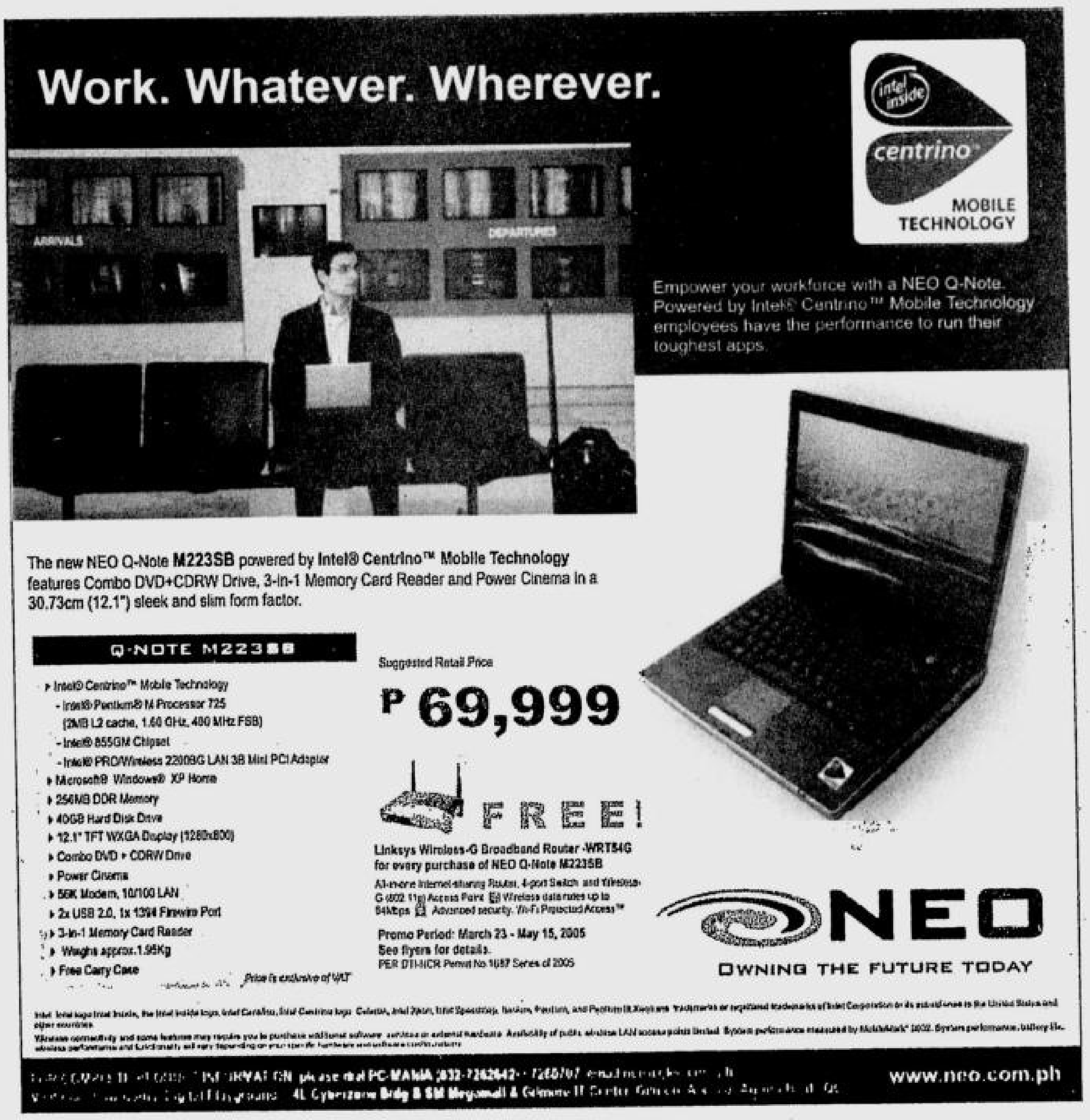

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LEONCIO BALBIN JR/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

PARTICIPANTS give their all during the 4th Binatbatan street dancing competition held yesterday in Vigan City as part of the 12th Viva Vigan Festival of the Arts celebration.

Binatbatan fest draws tourists to Vigan City

VIGAN CITY—The cotton in this capital town of Ilocos Sur has long been gone but the dance that inspired it continues to draw tourists here.

Binatbatan, a dance that mimics how cotton weavers beat the seeds out of cotton pods, was the featured dance in the Viva Vigan, the city's week-long fiesta celebration that started on Sunday.

Sticks known as the *batbat* are beaten as dancers wearing the *abel* (woven cloth), the product of the *binatbatan*, sway.

Mayor Ferdinand Medina, however, said the native cotton is no longer grown in Vigan. "We get our cotton from Ilocos Norte and parts of the province and we turn them into yarns for the abel," he said.

As a uniting gesture, Vigan officials invited other dance troupes from Laoag City and Candon City to join the open category of the binatbatan contest.

Medina said Vigan's brand of tourism dwells more on the past. "Conservation of the distinct Vigan architecture is our thrust," he said.

Although the binatbatan festival was only on its fourth year, the Viva Vigan Festival was started 12 years ago by non-government groups like the Save Vigan Ancestral Homes Association and KaiVigan (Friends of Vigan).

The groups organized the festival to highlight not only Vigan's cultural heritage but also to draw attention to the city's quest to be included in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's World Heritage List. The city was eventually listed as a World Heritage Site in December 1999.

Organizers said at least 5,000 people watched the street dancing competition held at Vigan's Heritage Village in the poblacion. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Army to review mission orders issued to civilians

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—The military here said it would review mission orders and memorandum receipts issued to civilian assets in the wake of the arrest of a radio commentator for firing a handgun outside a videoke bar here on Sunday evening.

Maj. Alexis Noel Bravo, spokesperson of the Army's 4th Infantry Division, told a local television station on Wednesday that the review was aimed at preventing similar incidents.

On Sunday evening, Alexander Adonis of Bombo Radyo here, fired a .38 caliber revolver.

Adonis claimed he was only pacifying a commotion.

Police later responded and arrested Adonis.

He was charged with illegal possession of firearms and alarm and scandal.

PO3 Francisco Granada Jr., police investigator, said a Dante Orzales told them that Adonis fired the gun without any provocation.

The broadcaster has since been jailed at the Maharlika Detention Center here.

Bravo said the military issued Adonis a mission order and memorandum receipt in the wake of the killings of journalists, especially in Mindanao.

To qualify, Adonis was tapped as a confidential agent.

Adonis had claimed he has been receiving threats.

"We are saddened because the incident [was not] related to his job instead he used the firearm in a petty quarrel," Bravo said.

Inday Espina-Varona, chair of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines, said the incident only showed that carrying firearms is counter-productive to journalists.

She said the military has no business tapping journalists as confidential agents.

A number of journalists have enlisted as confidential agents to be able to carry firearms, she said.

Michael Bustamante, assistant station manager of Bombo Radyo, said they did not know that Adonis has been a confidential agent and that they would investigate if he was being paid for it. *Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

HOT ON THE GRILL. This time, too many cooks did not spoil Dagupan City's bid to reclaim the title of the world's longest barbecue. More than 26,000 "bangus" (milkfish) were grilled along Fernandez Avenue during the "Kalupan Ed Dagupan" festival on Saturday.

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

'Bangus' capital outgrills Turkey

From page A1

At about 4:30 p.m., Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. led local officials and guests, including Japanese Ambassador Ryuichiro Yamazaki, in lighting the first of the 1,051 metal grills along the stretch of Barrera Street and AB Fernandez Avenue.

A few minutes later, the bangus were simultaneously placed on the grills and the distinctive aroma of broiled fish filled the air.

The crowd broke into applause as the officials walked past the grill at the 1.6-km portion of its stretch. They shouted "Goodbye, Turkey!" referring to that country's 1.6-km-long barbecue grill record set in 2003.

Again, the crowd cheered and waved Philippine flags as officials came to the last metal grill in front of the National Bureau of Investigation office on AB Fernandez West Street.

The documentation of the *Kalutan ed Dagupan* (longest barbecue grill), a highlight of the city's Bangus Festival, will be submitted to the Guinness Book of Records for verification and official recognition.

In 2003, Dagupan outcooked Peru's 613-meter-long barbecue grill. But the record was snatched later that year by Turkey.

"We made it. We are 100 percent sure that we have established a world record," said Mayor Benjamin Lim after he was informed of the unofficial length of the barbecue grill.

Praises

Lim thanked residents and members of different civic organizations, sponsors and supporters who helped stage the city's bid for the longest grill.

He also credited Councilor Michael Fernandez, the festival chair, for a "splendid job."

Describing the event as one of Dagupan's "grandest moments," De Venecia said, "We ousted Turkey at 5 p.m. The people are rejoicing and this is not only an honor for Dagupan but for all the Filipinos because now we're back in the Guinness Book of Records."

Lim said it would take two to three weeks to prepare the documents and send them to the Guinness offices in London. He said it would take three to four months more before the official results are announced.

"Dagupeños were challenged to regain the longest barbecue title, so they went out of their way to make the affair successful," Lim said.

Competitions

As part of the festival, various bangus competitions were also held here last week.

During the 2005 Bangus Rodeo on April 28, the longest, heaviest and most beautiful bangus were showcased to the delight of tourists and residents.

Competitions for the fastest bangus deboner, fastest bangus classifier and the fastest bangus eater were also held.

Bangus traders and fishpond owners joined the contests.

The longest fish measured 85 centimeters, while the heaviest was 5.183 kg. *With a report from Eric Montoya, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

House now wants . . .

From page A1

terparts in the Senate, administration Sen. Joker Arroyo said yesterday.

"Word has reached the Senate that the House has made a 360-degree turnaround. It has deserted its own bill and now wants power to remain exempted from VAT," Arroyo, a member of the Senate panel, said in an interview.

But the House panel denied that it was amenable to exempting the power sector from VAT.

"The House panel has not taken that position. The last bicam meeting was Monday last week [and] that has not been discussed," said Tarlac Rep. Jesli Lapus, chair of the House committee on ways and means.

Lapus said in an interview that the power sector (independent power producers and distributors and oil companies) was "VAT-able" at 4 percent under the House version.

House members, including Tarlac Rep. Herminio Teves, earlier kept an open mind on changes in the VAT measure just to end the impasse but retreated to the House's original hardline stance (12 percent and multirates for previously exempted sectors) when the Senate bicam panel refused to budge.

Square One

"We went back to square one," said Lapus who, however, remained hopeful that a compromised version would be adopted by the bicam.

Arroyo said the change in the position of the House panel was more mind-boggling than the controversy on which VAT rate to adopt.

The House had proposed a 12-percent VAT rate for some goods and services, and a gradual rate increase on others. For power and petroleum, it proposed 4 percent for the first year, and 6, 8 and 12 percent for the succeeding three years.

The Senate version sought to retain the VAT rate at 10 percent, lift the exemptions of power, petroleum and other previously exempted sectors, and raise the corporate income tax from 32 to 35 percent. It adopted the House proposal for a no-pass-through provision if the power sector were subjected to VAT.

"If that is not possible (exempting power from VAT), and power has to be VATed, the House panel would likewise abandon its original position and allow a pass-on provision so that the generating companies and the IPPs would not pay any VAT because they can simply pass it on to consumers," Arroyo said.

He said Malacañang, the Department of Energy and the Department of Finance were egging on the House panel to forsake what was in the House bill.

Waiting for a breakthrough

But Lapus said the House panel was waiting for a breakthrough on the VAT rate before making a move.

"(We) hope a compromise can be had next week," said Lapus. "[We hope] we can come up with a unified stand at least for a real bicam by Wednesday," he said.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the House panel could help break the impasse by agreeing to the senators' proposal to raise the income tax on corporations.

Pimentel said a consensus to raise the corporate tax rate from 32 to 35 percent was a better option to break the deadlock than a colleague's proposal to grant President Macapagal-Arroyo standby authority to increase the VAT rate to 12 percent, which he said was illegal.

"[Y]ou can still achieve targeted revenues, and that is by raising the income tax of corporations from 32 to 35 percent," he said in a phone interview.

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De Venecia calls for meet to unify country

From page A1

the Nacionalista Party, Secretary Norberto Gonzales of Partido Demokratiko Sosyalista ng Pilipinas, Rep. Ronaldo Puno of Kampi, party-list Representatives Etta Rosales of Akbayan and Satur Ocampo of Bayan Muna, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr. of PDP-Laban, Sen. Edgardo Angara of Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, and officials of the Muslim Ompia party.

De Venecia said he would also ask Rep. Edcel Lagman and former presidential candidate Raul Roco to represent Aksyon Demokratiko at the meeting, as well as invite representatives of former President Joseph Estrada's Partido ng Masang Pilipino.

The Speaker has shown his skills in building so-called rainbow coalitions among parties and politicians with conflicting interests.

De Venecia said there would be a parallel series of dialogues with the Lakas CMD headed by Ms Arroyo with former President Fidel Ramos as chair emeritus.

According to De Venecia, the entire leadership of Lakas, the country's biggest political party, will "put an end to extralegal and extraconstitutional moves against the duly elected government of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Our aim is to unify the country, end the gridlock, approve the revenue measures needed by the country, complete the peace agreements with insurgent groups, and move forward toward constitutional reform as we zero in on the most contentious issues facing our people," he said.

De Venecia, known for his excess of optimism, said the meeting "will be a prelude to a large-scale political summit of the country's political parties and party-list groups."

The police are not taking Abat's declarations sitting down.

"As soon as we gather enough evidence, and [if] the evidence will stick, we will file charges against him," declared Deputy Director Avelino Razon, head of the National Capital Region Police Office.

Charges against Abat

Asked what charges could be filed against Abat, Razon said: "Either inciting to sedition or sedition itself."

Razon said the evidence against Abat could include the leaflets distributed at a meeting at the Club Filipino, statements from witnesses and a video copy of Abat's speech.

PNP lawyers have begun studying the possibility of prosecuting Abat, according to PNP spokesperson Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil.

The police belittled Abat's capability to mount a coup or start an insurrection.

Razon said Abat's group was small and had no support in the Armed Forces or the PNP.

"We do not see an armed component with this group. Nor do we see any member of the AFP or PNP lending support to this group," Razon said.

Meeting about pension?

Even retired military officials who went to the meeting at Club Filipino said they thought they were going to discuss an increase in their pension, according to Razon.

Earlier, top police officials told INQUIRER editors that two things were crucial in any attempt to overthrow a government—help from the military and a lot of money.

No group has these resources, according to PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao.

Razon also said any attempt to establish a military-civilian junta would not get the support of the people.

The people know that to support one would be like "shooting our own head," he said.

But Abat's proposal may not all be a pipe dream.

Communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal hinted the Communist Party of the Philippines was open to a possible tactical alliance with Abat's coalition.

"We're open to the possibility of forging a tactical alliance with General Abat's group. We could possibly help each other," Rosal said in a mobile phone interview.

He, however, quickly added that Abat and his group should make clear their stand on social issues such as industrialization, agrarian reform, foreign relations and globalization, among other things.

At least one leftist group agreed with the police that Abat would not succeed.

No mass support

In a text message sent to the INQUIRER, the Kilusang Magbubukid sa Pilipinas said Abat was bound to fail because he did not have the support of the majority of the people.

"In [an] endeavor as massive as ousting a president or in launching a revolution," said KMP information officer Carl Ala, "the support of the majority is an essential component. If you do not have this, it simply would not work."

But Ala said it was simply a matter of time before the Arroyo administration crumbled.

"[The] majority of the people detest her and her government. Her popularity rating would attest (to that)," Ala said.

Needed components

For an uprising to be successful, Ala said some elements must be present—mass support, more people and groups "in the middle" supporting Ms Arroyo's ouster, and the United States withdrawing its support and seeing her as a liability.

Despite the heavy presence of police and soldiers around the Malacañang compound, it was business as usual at the Palace.

Ms Arroyo and her husband celebrated Labor Day by attending Mass at the Palace grounds.

The President then hosted a brunch for members of the Labor Solidarity Movement, where she announced a package of benefits for workers. *(See banner story on Page A1.) With a report from Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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Abat still on a roll

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE BALL is still rolling, so says former Defense Secretary Fortunato Abat.

Despite disagreements with some members of his newly launched Coalition for National Salvation, the retired Army chief said yesterday his campaign to rally support for his proposed revolutionary government was still in place.

"We will continue the movement," Abat said in a phone interview.

At the launch of the coalition at Club Filipino the other day, Abat walked out, apparently irked by calls from some allied organizations for the group to join the Labor Day protests.

"I don't want the movement to lose its credibility by joining those rallies," Abat had said.

He said that if the coalition members joined the protests, they would just end up being dispersed, which would be a "symbol of defeat."

"We should carefully plan our moves, especially because we are challenging a powerful force. This should be a peaceful movement," Abat said.

Despite Abat's objections, some groups in the coalition still took to the streets yesterday.

These organizations will still be considered "part of the coalition," Abat said.

"Perhaps they just wanted to show cooperation [with the groups that staged the rallies]. That's fine with me," he said.

Abat's coalition includes about 20 organizations, most of which had been previously unheard of.

"Our objective is the stepping down of [Ms Arroyo]," Abat said.

Support needed

He said the plan would start with the formation of a revolutionary council, which he volunteered to head, and the council would then go around the country to solicit support.

Yesterday, Abat met with his leaders and said he was confident the council would get enough support.

"The council will have to go around. We will explain to our people why we need their support. We are going to plan carefully," he added.

If enough support is gathered, Abat said another "people power" would be organized to oust Ms Arroyo.

The revolutionary council will then choose the Head of the Government while the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police will choose a Commander in Chief.

His coalition aims to establish the revolutionary government "within the year or sooner."

PSG ready for anything

AMID talk of destabilization, the chief of the presidential guards said yesterday his men were to repulse any challenge to the seat of government.

But like President Macapagal-Arroyo, Presidential Security Group chief Brig. Gen. Delfin Bangit did not see any immediate threat despite calls for her ouster from former Defense Secretary Fortunato Abat.

"We make preparations based on actual threats," Bangit told reporters in Malacañang. "The pronouncement of Abat ... has not affected the PSG really. We will continue to adjust our security arrangements if it will affect the life of the President. But as of now, I don't think the announcement has affected the life of the President."

Bangit said the PSG had been on red alert since Saturday night and that the alert would stay "until it is needed."

"We're ready for any situation. Very much ready," he added.

Christine O. Avendaño

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Bayani urges legislators to define MMDA powers

By Tarra V. Quismundo

ONCE and for all, tell the people what our powers are.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Bayani Fernando has called on Congress to review the agency's charter, a piece of legislation that lays down the powers and functions of the MMDA.

"They (Congress) have to clarify the MMDA charter so that things will clear up. There seems to be confusion," Fernando said in an interview last week.

The 1995 MMDA charter, authored by Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, created the MMDA as an agency under the Office of the President tasked primarily to manage Metro Manila traffic, and enforce traffic rules and regulations.

Questions on the MMDA charter arose after some quarters interpreted a recent Supreme Court ruling that upheld a lower court decision barring the MMDA from confiscating licenses of errant drivers.

Some Metro Manila mayors, including Makati's Jejomar Binay and Manila's Lito Atienza, are reading the Supreme Court ruling as declaring that the MMDA had no police powers.

Binay, a lawyer, even said the Supreme Court ruling "opened a Pandora's box of legal headaches" for the agency.

He added that anybody "who felt victimized" by MMDA's programs, such as sidewalk clearing operations and the much-criticized wet flag scheme, may take the MMDA to court and seek damages.

"That is what needs clearing up at this time," Fernando said over his weekly program MMDA sa GMA over radio dzBB.

"Why is there an MMDA? Why don't we just go our own separate ways?" he added.

The MMDA chair explained that the agency knew that it had no power to legislate, which was the job of the Metro Manila Council, a body composed of Metro Manila mayors.

Fernando then stook a snipe at mayors who do not attend the council's meetings and yet complain of not getting what they wanted out of the body.

Of Metro Manila's 17 mayors, those who regularly attended the council's meetings were Valenzuela's Sherwin Gatchalian, Malabon's Canuto Oreta, and Rosendo Capco of Pateros, and Caloocan's Enrico Echiverri.

Eastern metro still safest, data show

By Blanche S. Rivera

BELIEVE it or not, eastern Metro Manila, site of two prominent murders the past month, is still the safest district in the metropolis.

Crime statistics from the National Capital Region Police Office showed that the Eastern Police District saw fewer crimes than the rest of the police districts in the region.

From January to March, there were 359 crimes reported to the EPD, just about ten percent of the total 3,777 crimes in Metro Manila in the first three months of the year.

The Northern Police District, which covers Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela, had the highest crime rate in Metro Manila with 988 crime incidents.

Chief Supt. Oscar Valenzuela, EPD director, said the statistics last April, when two high-profile crimes hit the EPD, were just around the same monthly figures from January to March.

"EPD has the lowest crime rate in Metro Manila. It's just that there have been high profile crimes lately," Valenzuela said during the weekly Kapihan sa Sulo in Quezon City.

Former Pasig Rep. Henry Lanot was shot two weeks ago by an assailant inside a crowded restaurant while having lunch with a friend.

About a week later, a relative of Commission on Elections chair Benjamin Abalos was riddled with bullets while driving in Mandaluyong City.

Marikina going coco diesel

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

RISING oil prices?

The Marikina City government is considering the full use of biofuel like coco-biodiesel.

Aside from expected lower costs, shifting to alternative fuel like coco-diesel will lessen pollution and result in better air quality, Mayor Marides Fernando said.

"We are looking at the possibility of coming up with an ordinance requiring all vehicles to use (alternative fuel)," she told the INQUIRER.

She said the city would decide on the matter in 60 days.

Last week, the Department of Energy and the United States Agency for International Development held a half-day seminar in the city.

The seminar, attended by local officials and representatives from business and transport sectors in the city, introduced biodiesel and explained its benefits.

Marikina City is the fourth city to be included in the Clean Cities Program of the Sustainable Energy Development Program (SEDP).

SEDP advocates the use of alternative fuel like natural gas, ethanol and coco-biodiesel, long been promoted by the energy department.

A representative from the SEDP explained that using coco-biodiesel would reduce carbon dioxide emission and result in better engine performance in vehicles.

Increased used of coconut oil will also boost local business and create more jobs.

It will also reduce dependence on oil imports.

The program has been started in the cities of Baguio and Davao and in Alicia, Isabela, the Marikina public information office also said.

Night courts sought

By Nancy Carvajal

A VALENZUELA City council is urging the Supreme Court to create night courts to deal with the increasing number of petty crimes in the locality.

The local peace and order council recently passed a resolution requesting the high court for the formation of an alternative court system that would try petty offenses and violations of ordinances, said city mayor Sherwin Gatchalian.

"The high incidence of petty crimes and violation of ordinances that occur everyday add up to already clogged dockets," Gatchalian said.

The night court, the mayor said, could help relieve the load of regular courts.

The mayor said they had written Supreme Court administrator Ismael Khan regarding the mechanics and implications of the proposal.

"We are now waiting for the court's response and we are optimistic that it would be granted," the local executive said.

Under the night court system, a judge and prosecutor would work like a regular court except that it would try offenses that carries a penalty of not more than P2,000 and imprisonment of not more than six months.

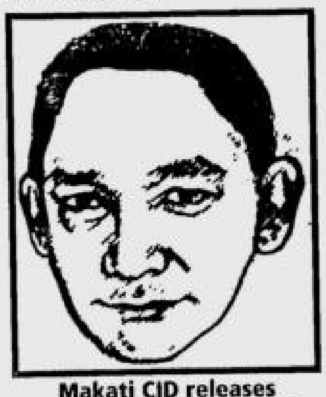
"The cases are minor and the more reason they should be addressed immediately," Gatchalian said.

The mayor said city prosecutors and judges had agreed to work in the courts on rotation basis.

Police chief slain in Makati

A murder case takes another fatal turn with the deadly shooting of Supt. Alexander Alejandro of Makati's Crime Investigation Division at around 7pm, Thursday. At the time of his death, Alejandro, 41, was the head of Task Force Morales investigating the death of 28-year-old management executive Jerson Morales.

Alejandro's body was found with two .38 caliber gunshot wounds to the chest not far from the Purple Pear Bar located along Figuerres St. in Makati City where Morales himself was gunned down last March 5. Based on witnesses accounts, probers are looking for a lone gunman, wearing a white t-shirt and dark pants and standing around 5'10" to 6'1", who fled the crime scene on foot. Police are considering the possibility that the two cases are connected.



Makati CID releases cartographic sketch of murder suspect

Known for his no-nonsense investigative approach, Alejandro had been the recipient of several awards for his efforts against illegal gambling and drugs.

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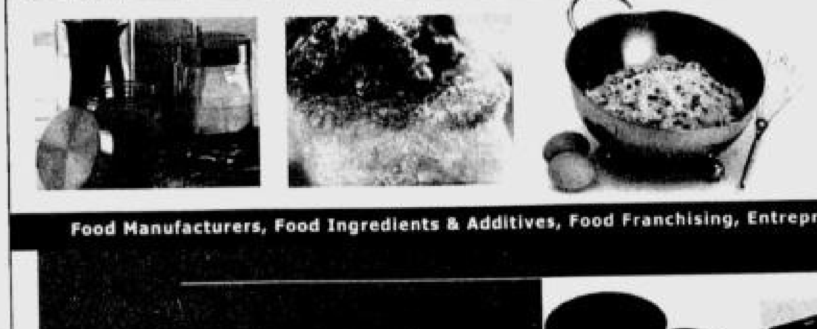

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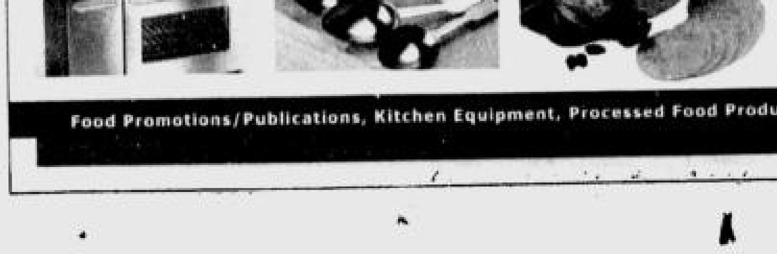

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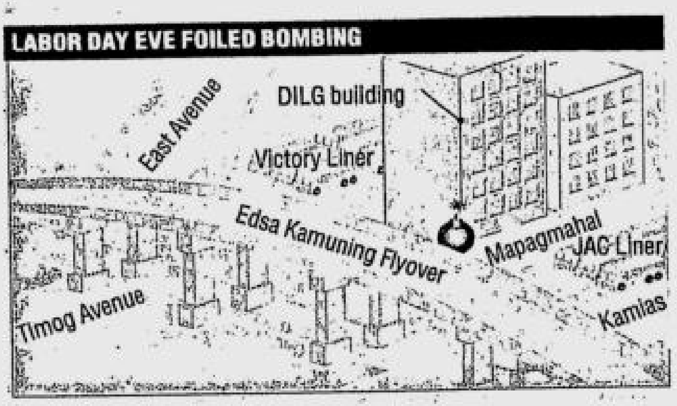
Bomb found at DILG building defused

LABOR DAY EVE FOILED BOMBING



By DJ Yap and Luige del Puerto

POLICE defused a powerful bomb planted outside the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) offices in Quezon City shortly before midnight Saturday, the eve of Labor Day.

The incident sparked fears of a new destabilization campaign against the Arroyo government, which is being rocked by calls for the President's resignation.

The improvised explosive device consisted of an alarm clock and four sticks of Magnum 365, a commercially available explosive gel mixed with about 110 grams of the high explosive trinitrotoluene, or TNT.

"It would have been powerful," said Deputy Director General Avelino Razon, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office.

However, Razon added that it would not have caused serious damage to the Francisco Gold Condominium building, which houses the DILG offices.

Set to blow

Police said the bomb was set to explode five minutes after it was left outside the building between 11 and 11:20 p.m.

SPO4 Arnold Franco of the Central Police District bomb squad said the device would have left a "crater effect" and would have damaged the first floor of the building.

The blast could have also hurt people nearby because of fragments and debris, Franco added.

Security guard Mariano Natividad, 47, told police that he saw a man, who had just gotten off a bus, leave a plastic bag on the patch of bermuda grass in front of the building.

The man, who wore a dark striped polo shirt, slim and about 5'6" tall, then called somebody on his cellular phone, Natividad said.

When the guard approached the man, the latter fled, police said.

Natividad inspected the plastic bag and saw an alarm clock, which prompted him to immediately notify the police.

SPO2 Christopher Marquez and SPO4 Alfonso Logan of the CPD explosives and ordinance division quickly responded and disabled the device.

Fear and terror

Supt. Alfred Corpus of the CPD Kamuning station said the suspect might not have intended to detonate the bomb, but only to "project fear and terror."

Corpus noted that it happened late at night when the DILG offices were empty, adding that the device was left just a few feet from the guard's outpost.

He said it could have been connected to an alleged destabilization plot against the Arroyo administration, but added it was still too early to tell.

CPD director Chief Supt. Nicasio Radovan Jr. said investigators had yet to identify anyone responsible for the failed bombing.

At press time, the police were still trying to determine the bomb's signature or make-up, which could give probers an idea of who built it.

For mining operations

Magnum 365 is usually used in mining operations, said CPD bomb experts said.

They said ordinary people do not have access and a special permit would be needed to acquire the gel.

Also yesterday, the CPD bomb squad responded to a bomb threat along Mindanao Avenue.

Someone called the police and reported that a bomb was placed inside a parked van, Radovan said.

"The men have been told to wait. Maybe the van has an owner. Maybe the owner would come back anytime," he said.

The police can wait for the owner to claim the van until early morning today, he said.

Cops on alert for Erap visit to mother

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

POLICE in the eastern part of Metro Manila remain on full alert today as ousted President Joseph Estrada attends the grand party for the 100th birthday of his mother, Doña Mary Ejercito.

"We don't expect any problem today. Still, our alertness remains high," Eastern Police District director Chief Supt. Oscar Valenzuela told the INQUIRER.

More than a hundred policemen armed with truncheons and shields were deployed early morning around the Edsa Shrine yesterday.

Police had expected protesters to try getting near the shrine—which marks the site of two people power uprisings that saw the ouster of two presidents.

But the afternoon came and only the big group of policemen from the district and a few from the National Capital Region Police Office was at the shrine grounds.

Unlike in Manila and Quezon City, where clashes between policemen and protesters erupted, the situation in eastern Metro Manila remained peaceful throughout the Labor Day.

Police are keeping their fingers crossed that today would turn out to be calm as well.

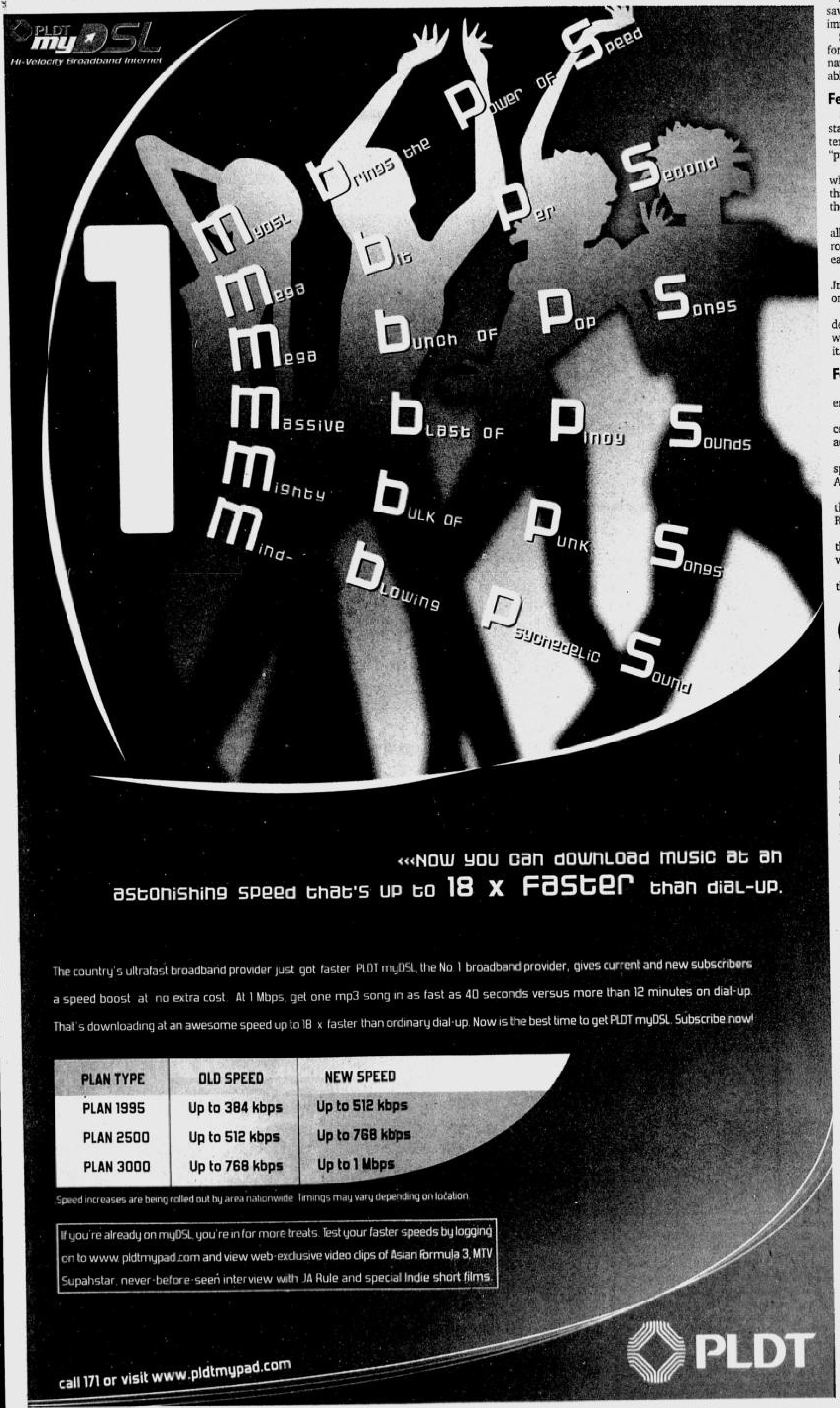
The Sandiganbayan has allowed Estrada, now on his fourth year of trial for plunder, to leave his Tanay, Rizal resthouse where he is being detained to attend his mother's birthday party.

Mary Marcelo Ejercito is celebrating her 100th birthday at the Manila Hotel's Fiesta Pavilion this afternoon.

The San Juan Police is preparing in case Estrada opt to drop by the municipality the jailed former President served as mayor for several terms.

Estrada's supporters are also expected to gather in a few areas to catch a glimpse of their idol.

But San Juan Police chief Rodelio Jocson said previous visits of Estrada were all peaceful.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SPORTS TV
Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA Playoffs—Suns vs Grizzlies; 8 a.m.; Solar Sports; Pistons vs Sixers; 10 a.m.; RPN 9—Check out these pair of Game Four encounters.

BILLIARDS: San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour Kaohsiung; 2:30 p.m. (r); STAR Sports—Catch the replay of qualifying action from Taiwan.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

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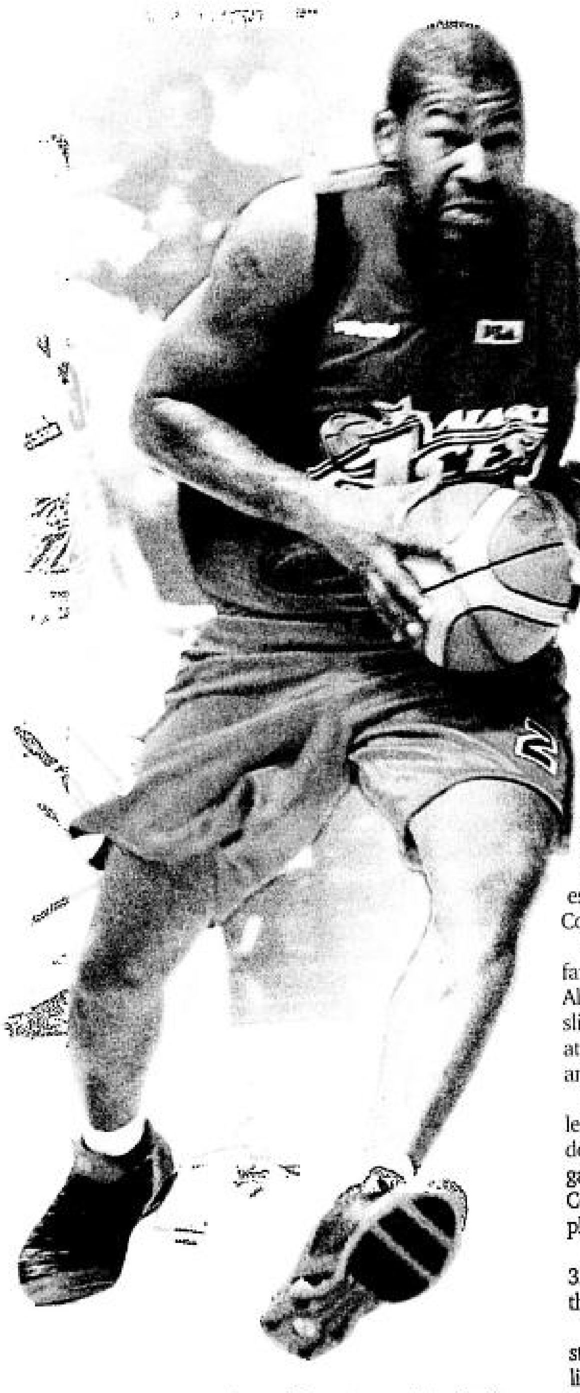
Aces claim 7th victim in Tigers


DICKEY Simpkins continues his unstoppable winning ways for Alaska, which now has seven straight victories, the last against Coca-Cola last night. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

GAMES WEDNESDAY (Araneta Coliseum)
4:45 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Purefoods
7:35 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs Red Bull Barako

By June Navarro

EVEN the most cruel defense can't get Dickey Simpkins out of his rhythm.

Simpkins mocked everything thrown at him and powered Alaska to its seventh straight win at the expense of Coca-Cola, 89-78, in the Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

"That's the best defense we had seen so far since Dickey (Simpkins) arrived," said Alaska coach Tim Cone after the Aces slipped past the Tigers to grab the solo lead at 8-4, a full game ahead of idle Talk 'N Text and San Miguel Beer.

"They (Tigers) gave us a strong challenge considering that they came from a double-overtime victory in an out-of-town game," added Cone. "That's a tough trip for Coke and we have to give credit to them for playing with a lot of heart."

Simpkins matched his conference-best 32 points, 21 of them in the final half when the Aces slowly pulled away.

"They put up a great defense on him and still he came out with those figures. Unbelievable," said Cone.

The former Chicago Bulls bench warmer also plucked down 20 rebounds, had an assist and a lone steal while controlling his temper in the face of a pesky stand from Johnny Abarrientos.

Abarrientos, who won an MVP after spearheading Alaska to a grandslam in 1996, annoyed Simpkins countless times as the diminutive playmaker ran rings around the 6-foot-9 import.

This is the longest streak of Cone and the Aces since they won 13 straight during their grand slam season.

In the second game, Shell pounced on a slumping and erratic Barangay Ginebra five for an emphatic 87-72 victory, the team's sixth against as many losses.

Tony dela Cruz led the Turbo Chargers with 25 points and five rebounds while the Kings committed 29 turnovers on the way to a 5-7 record and a share of the bottom with idle Sta. Lucia.

The scores:

First Game

ALASKA 89—Simpkins 32, Cablay 17, Cariaso 11, Hugnatan 8, Cortez 7, Hawkins 6, Thoss 3, Allado 3, Wilson 2.

COCA-COLA 78—Sanford 24, Peek 17, Arigo 12, Abarrientos 8, Juinio 5, Singson 4, Antonio 4, Wainwright 2, Reavis 2, Ramos 0, Chia 0.

Quarters: 16-21, 35-37, 68-60, 89-78

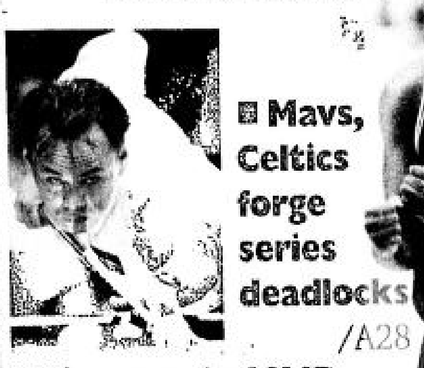
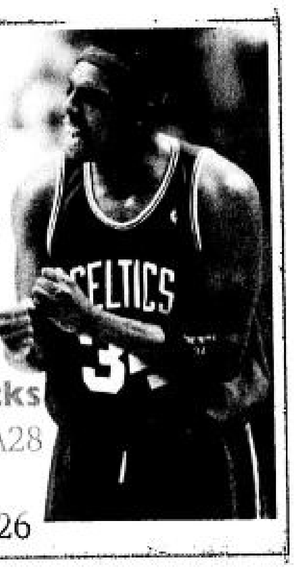
Second Game

SHELL 87—Dela Cruz 25, Tubid 13, Calaguio 13, Robinson 8, Mamaril 8, Alvarez 7, Ferreria 6, Jackson 3, Sotto 2, Cruz 2.

GINEBRA 72—Brown 27, Adducul 10, Caguioa 10, Santos 7, Menk 5, Echavez 4, Salvacion 4, Dimaunahan 3, Noble 2, Seigle 0.

Quarters: 25-21, 42-39, 67-75, 87-72

WHAT'S INSIDE



- Mavs, Celtics forge series deadlocks /A28
- Pinoys out of SMB 9-ball semifinals /A26

Chot may end up as Seaba coach

By Jasmine W. Payo

BENEATH the calm and collected exterior, national coach Chot Reyes confessed to certain worries.

"I'm not sure if we have enough preparation time," said Reyes, after the 14 PBL players he handpicked joined the national team practice for the first time yesterday at the Moro Lorenzo Gym. "We have the best talent. But then again, the best talent doesn't mean you have the best team."

After RP Cebuana Lhuillier's scandalous loss to an unrated team of former pros and movie stars, the basketball committee chaired by Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco recently appointed Reyes to form a new squad that will compete in the Southeast Asian Basketball Association (Seaba) Championship June 20 to 26 in Singapore.

With only six weeks left before the tournament, the outspoken coach is forced to deal with lack of time.

"We only have 12 practices left before going to the Seaba," said Reyes. "We can only practice twice a week."

Another problem Reyes cited is the lack of scouting report.

"A well prepared amateur team can win the Seaba," he said. "But right now, we don't have the time to scout. We have no idea who the biggest threats are. So with the absence of preparation, we're making up with talent."

Reyes' coaching staff, though, will have a chance to check out the Singapore national team during the Singapore Cup on May 6-8.

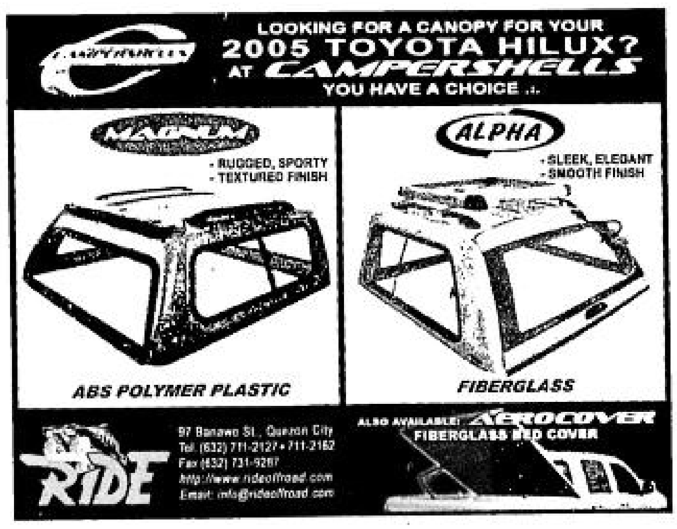
The national pool won't join the tournament, but Reyes will be sending a "token team" led by Magnolia Ice Cream players Arwind Santos, Dennis Miranda, Cesar Catli, RJ Rizada and Mark Isip for a tune-up match with the Singaporeans.

Reyes also downplayed reports that he'll soon be naming the coaching staff for the Seaba, the qualifying tournament for the Asian championship set this September in Doha, Qatar.

"Right now, we're working on the premise that I'll be the one coaching for Seaba," said Reyes. "(POC president) Peping Cojuangco made it very clear that he would prefer that I handle the team so I have to respect that decision."

Reyes added that members of the RP Cebuana Lhuillier team continue to practice with the pool.

"We got the PBL players to strengthen the national pool," he said. "They're never meant to replace anybody. So we now have the best 40 players in the country—25 in the amateurs and 20 in the pros. And we can pick anyone depending on the competition."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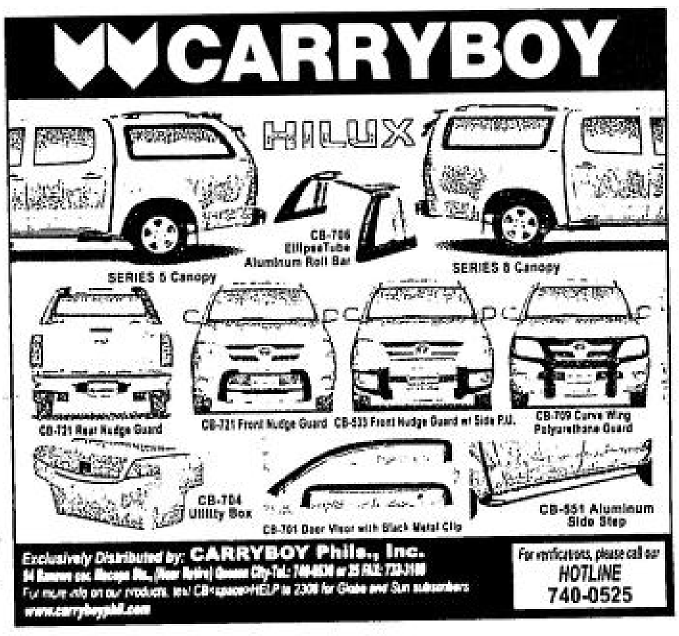
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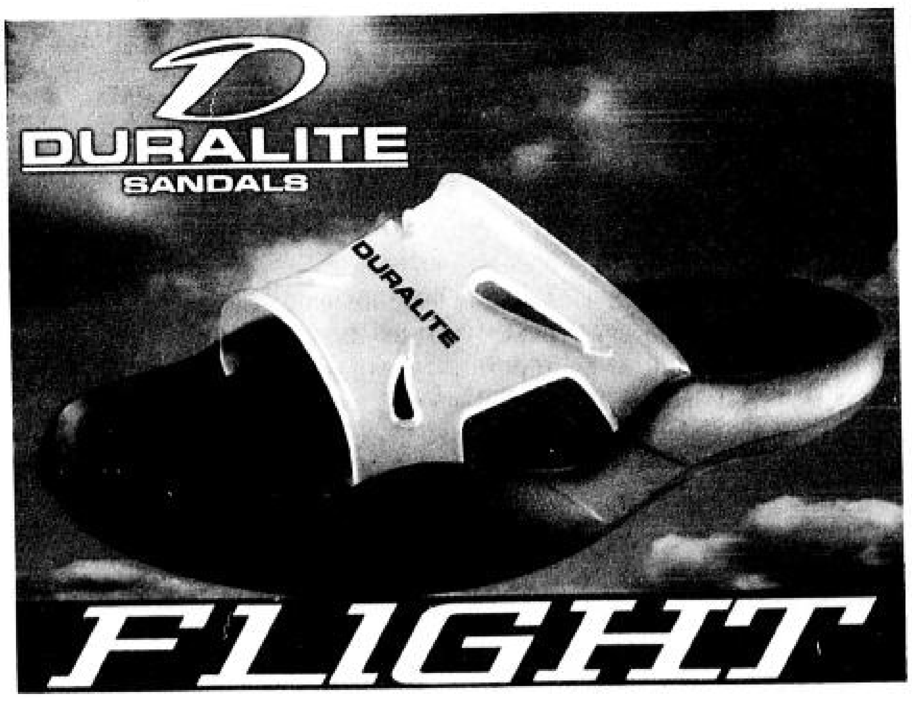
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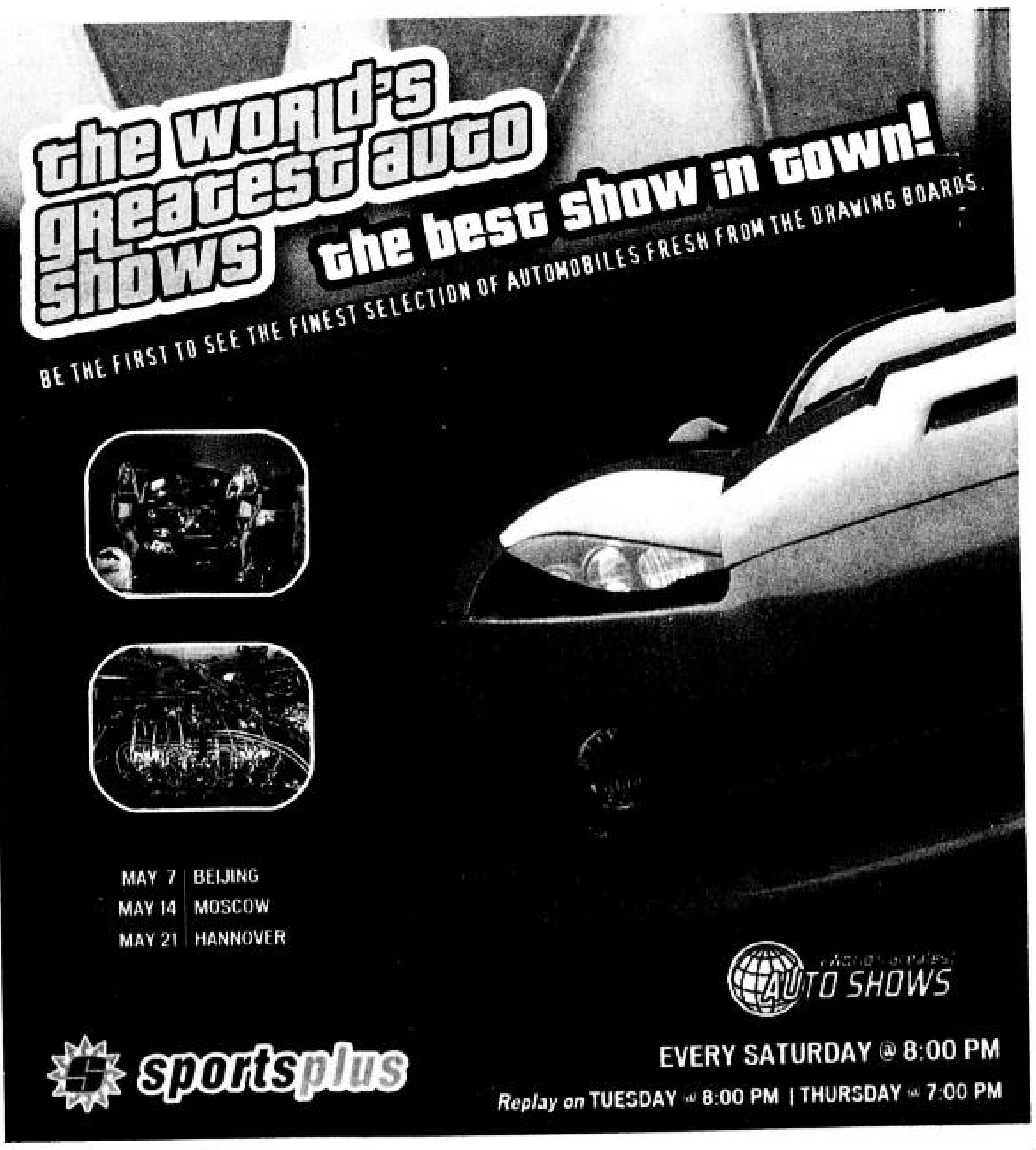
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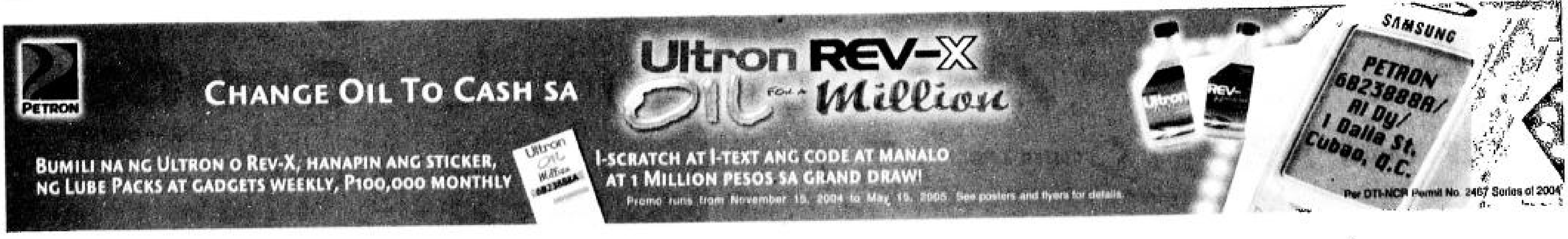
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FIRST TIME

Pinoys out of SMB 9-ball semifinals

KAOSHIUNG, Taiwan—Local hero Yang Ching-sung dealt Ronnie Alcano a 9-6 beating Saturday night to make sure that no Filipino will be in the semifinals of a San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour leg for the first time.

The 27-year-old Taiwanese seized control early by winning the fifth and seventh racks on the Filipino's break for a commanding 6-2 lead that served as buffer at the Kaoshiung Business Center here.

Yang's victory gave him a seat in the Final Four while also averting a shutout for the hosts. Seven Taiwanese fell one after the other in the earlier rounds, including two-time world pool champion Chao Fong-pang.

Alcano did a good job keeping the pressure on Yang, pulling within a rack twice, the last after a run out in the 13th for 6-7.

But Yang answered with a run out of his own in the 14th before waiting for an opening to close out the match.

"It's difficult to play catch up, especially in an alternate break format," said Alcano in Filipino. "The rally came a bit too late."

Yang's semifinal opponent will be Japanese seventh seed Satoshi Kawabata, a 9-5 winner over Ibrahim Amir of Malaysia.

This marks the first time in the young history of this Tour that no Filipino advanced past the quarterfinals. Filipinos have made it to the finals in all of the previous legs except in the Hong Kong leg last year when Yang won his second title at the expense of compatriot Hsia Hui-kai.

Gandy Valle and Efren "Bata" Reyes ruled the first two legs this year held in Singapore and Indonesia, respectively.

Valle bowed out in the first round along with qualifiers Christopher Bombita and Leonardo "Dodong" Andam, while Reyes was ambushed by Bin Amir in the second round.

Francisco "Django" Bustamante's woes in this event continued after losing a four-rack lead and the match to Japanese Kunihiko Takahashi Friday.

The former world No. 1 failed to score again after posting a 7-3 lead to remain winless in the tour after 10 appearances.

In the other quarterfinal pair, Au Chi-wai of Hong Kong delivered a golden performance and shocked last year's World Pool Championship runner-up Chang Pei-wei, 9-8.

Au, a known snooker player, thus became the first player from the former crown colony to enter the semifinals of the tour sponsored by San Miguel Beer.

DJANGO Bustamante remains winless in the Tour.

Another basketball thrilla shaping up

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

WHILE nobody was looking, a bomb was dropped in the midst of happy preparations for this year's RP basketball campaign in the Southeast Asian region.

A top official of the Basketball Association of the Philippines announced it would not recognize the RP national team to the Southeast Asian Basketball Association (Seaba) championship in Singapore in June.

Knowing the clout of the powerhouse basketball committee formed by Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, that rejection could sound like a big bluff.

Cojuangco had effectively disbanded a team originally formed by the BAP.

In its place, he assigned national coach Chot Reyes to form a new national squad that could include professionals and standouts from top amateur leagues.

* * *

Critics were actually divided on the issue.

There were those who felt the Cojuangco solution was an overkill, as the Seaba challenge was not really that awesome.

Others swore it was a perfect shot that should ensure the country's reemergence as a basketball power in the Asian region.

For the record, Chot Reyes has already named candidates to the RP team that will defend the Seaba crown in Singapore.

We also got protesting calls, through former Sen. Freddie Webb during his Saturday radio sports program, that nobody in the Lhuillier-backed RP squad originally formed by the BAP had been included in the list of aspirants named by Reyes.

* * *

The Cojuangco solution had looked flawless and neat, considering the disruption caused by the discredited BAP sec-gen who had been ordered deported for faking his citizenship papers.

Without taking him out of the lineup, Cojuangco has indefinitely benched Graham Lim, thereby clipping his wings.

But hold it. Not so fast, warned Filomeno "Boy" Codiñera, the BAP vice president for the Visayas.

He said the BAP is not run just by Lim. His exact words.

Explained Codiñera in an exclusive report by Bill Velasco for Star: "We welcome the offer to help, but they cannot just come in and take over, whether they are POC, PBA or whoever."

Codiñera stressed that the BAP was the sole authority on the matter and the Seaba team plan was adopted in a BAP board meeting in Dumaguete two months ago.

He added: "Right there and then, it was decided the head coach would be Boysie Zamar, he has the right to pick the players."

* * *

Yes, it was initially thought that Codiñera was kidding. He was crossing sabers with the most powerful sports figure in the land, a veteran of countless political battles.

But a check showed Codiñera was not holding an empty suit. He was not bluffing, either.

A check with an insider at the Asian Basketball Confederation (ABC) bared Cojuangco may have to come up with a stronger stand in order to legitimize his solution to the amateur cage mess.

Why? Because the Seaba, unlike the Southeast Asian Games, doesn't fall under the jurisdiction of the Cojuangco body.

Our source explained that the Seaba is purely a Fiba affair, not necessarily governed by rules and decisions of national or international Olympic bodies.

The same source added that Yeoh Cho Hock, the secretary general of the Seaba, is a close ally of Lim. Yeoh is also the ABC sec-gen.

The Lhuillier-backed RP team, meanwhile, has not actually disbanded and continues to train regularly.

The authority on which the RP team will be recognized in Singapore in June falls solely on the Seaba.

Codiñera, no stranger to sporting skirmishes, appeared ready to pursue his case to a logical conclusion.

A pity, said Joey Romasanta, Cojuangco's spokesman, who claimed the issue was already moot and academic, as everything has been agreed upon in a previous meeting involving BAP officials.

Another basketball thriller could explode in our midst.

Perez rules 2nd Mayor's Cup

JACK Perez came up with an 83, then banked on a lower handicap to rule Class A Friday in the second Pasay City Mayor's Cup at the par-72, 7,001-yard Villamor Golf Club course.

With a net 69, Perez, with a handicap of 14, won the top prize by one shot in the 18-hole tournament launched by Pasay City Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad to raise funds for needy residents via the Mayor's Golf Cup Inc.

Raymund Sangil, a former junior standout, tamed the relatively flat but still challenging layout with a two-under-par 70 to settle for second place while Gary Sales shot a net 71 to capture the third spot.

Maj. Dennis Estrella carded a 73 to top Class B while A. delos Santos shot a 75 to rule Class C. The Seniors' division crown went to Art Ampaya after coming up with a net 71.

Trinidad and organizing committee co-chairs Felix Amante Jr. and Maj. Gen. Charlie Tañega were on hand during the awards ceremony.

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Boracay Dragons capture crown in Cali Boracay Fever

UNDER the scorching sun, the defending champion Boracay Dragons rose to the challenge anew and claimed bragging rights as the best in Beach Ultimate in this year's Cali Boracay Fever 2005 held last weekend on Boracay Island.

South Korea's Bukkake emerged second in the tournament sponsored by Cali, the non-alcoholic, sparkling fruit-flavored drink, in cooperation with Sports Plus.

In a game that required not only skills but also sportsmanship and honesty, Thailand's Bart Edes, Korea's Lou Delicious along with local bets Anton Bayot and Frida Gregorio were given the Ambassador for Spirits award—the highest individual honor given to a Beach Ultimate player.

The Dragons barely broke a sweat against their local rivals in the eliminations, beating Manila, 12-6, before downing Alabang's Bucking Broncos, 12-8, in the semifinals.

But just when the title was within the Dragons' reach, the gritty Koreans proved to be a difficult team to bend as the reigning champs had to go through the proverbial eye of the needle to finally pull off a 12-9 victory that sent the hometown crowd roaring with delight.

Tough rival

"We were very confident at first since we cruised through the eliminations and semis, but we had to step up because Korea proved a tough rival," said James Yap, a member of the Dragons.

In the G-Mix Bartending competition, Mike Diaz, a 30-year-old bartender from the Mate's Oz Bar, nosed out 10 of his peers with his unique style of mixing drinks with Cali and slick moves to the delight of the crowd.

Beach Ultimate, which is rapidly growing in popularity among Filipinos, was introduced into the country three years ago on the same pristine island that served homage to the Ultimate players and fans here and abroad.

Beach Ultimate is a game of fast-paced action, with breath-taking stunts that keep the spectators pumped up as they witness fantastic catches, lightning-fast passes and diving interceptions.

PANOY delos Santos of the Boracay Dragons prepares to throw the disc while being chased by Korea's Lou Delicious in the finals of the Cali Boracay Fever 2005 in Boracay last weekend.

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A sexual act is an excellent form of exercise. Using almost all of your muscles, it burns up to 300 calories an hour which is almost equivalent to 15 minutes of walking in the treadmill. Studies also show that engaging in a loving, intimate relationship through rewarding and regular intercourse improves the well-being of a person. It makes one feel younger, less irritable and happy because of the endorphins and oxytocin released during the blissful activity of making love. These naturally occurring chemicals serve as natural opiates that act as pain and anxiety killers.

But as men age, their sexual capacity is lessened. Add to that the stress they get from their surroundings and their relationships will be doomed. They will often feel tired. Ergo, they will have less urge to engage in intimate moments with their partners. But then again, science understands the needs of men. From the makers of the well-established slimming tea for women Kankunis comes yet another breakthrough product. **Honey Moon Tea, Love Potion for Men** is the answer to men's sexual drive problems. Made from natural ingredients carefully researched to solve erectile dysfunctions, increase sexual desire and prolong orgasms-this tea does not need any prescription at all.

Honey Moon Tea is a concoction of traditional Chinese herbs *Herba Epimedu, Herba Cynomoru, Woodwardia Japonica, Fructus Polygalea, Yang Gong Cao, Radix Polygalea, Semen Astragali Complanati, Radix Ginseng and Pilose Antler.* The potion promotes endocrine regulation to help lengthen sexual climax by empowering the body's metabolism during intercourse.

Mixed in the right proportion, the herbs are also known to help improve the immune system of the body and reinforce the functions of the liver and the kidney. The herbs also have curative benefits and help rid off free-radicals in the body. *Herba Epimedu, Herba Cynomoru* and *Woodwardia Japonica* also contain saponins and glycosides which are known as body-building agents that strengthen the bones and the muscles. *Radix Polygalea* invigorates the kidney and the spleen. *Semen Astragali Complanati* improves the eyesight. *Fructus Polygalea* and *Yang Gong Cao* are known as anti-inflammatory agents for pharyngitis. These are also used traditionally as sedative, expectorant, and resuscitating agent. The famous *Radix Ginseng* which is considered a male aphrodisiac is a tonic herb that athletes use to combat stress. The *Pilose Antler* contains sex hormones, estrone and estranediol which helps the sexual glands to secrete more for longer erection of the male genitalia.

Advisable for men from their 30s and up, **Honey Moon Tea** is also for dynamic men who want to intensify their sexual activites through improved sexual drive and for men who need extra stamina for prolonged physical activities like sports. It is to be consumed at least 10-15 minutes before the sexual activity. It is available in tin boxes with 30 sachets each. Modestly priced at ₱2,100 per box, it is a better alternative than resorting to costly chemically-produced medicines which have harmful side effects for the body.

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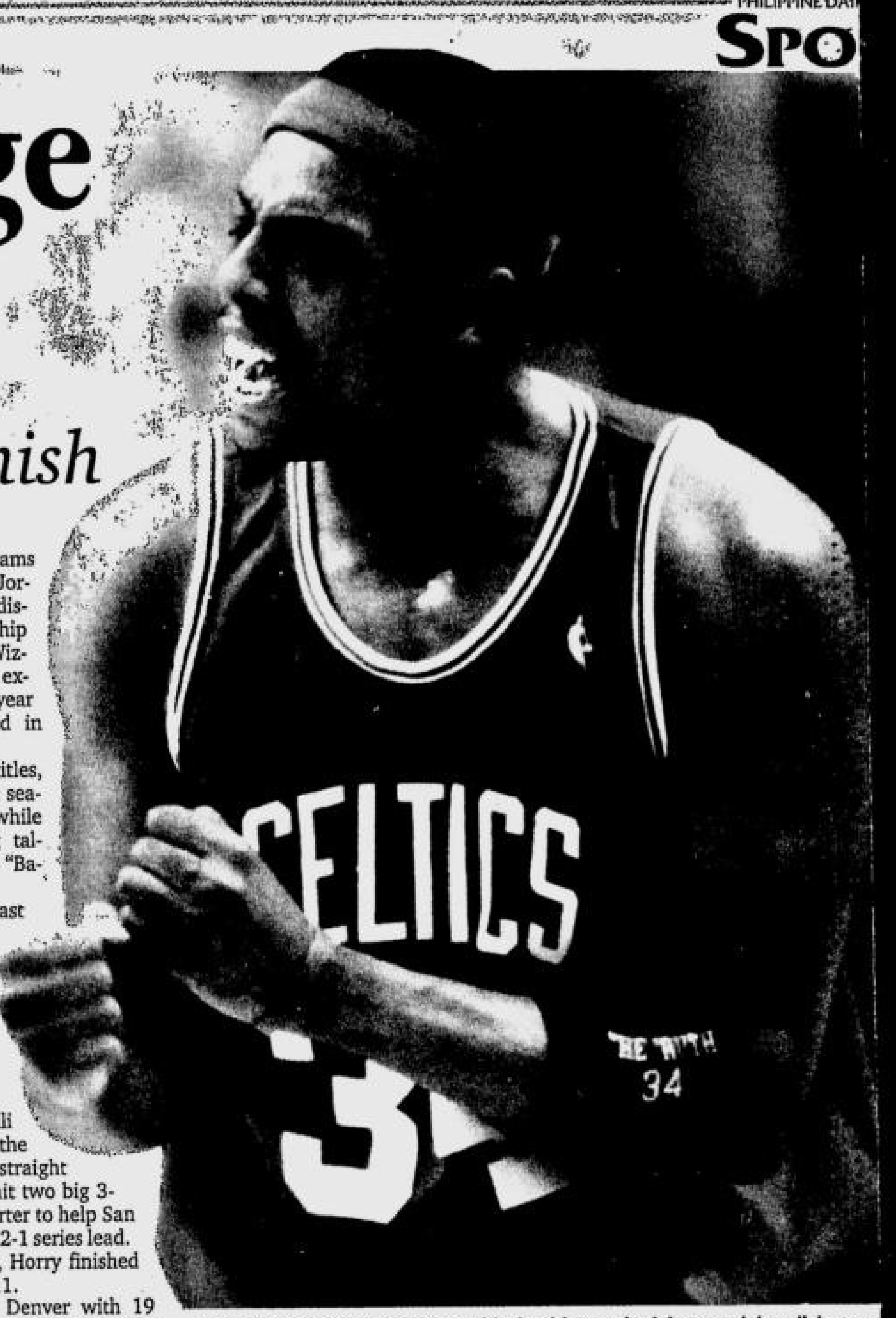
Mavs, Celtics forge series deadlocks

Wizards finally make playoff jinx vanish



PAUL Pierce hoists the Celtics on his shoulders and celebrates a job well done RE

HOUSTON—With Dirk Nowitzki in another slump and Houston's Tracy McGrady scoring virtually at will, unheralded Dallas point guard Jason Terry rescued the Mavericks from the bleakest of deficits to even the series.

"It (the ball) just ended up in my hands," Terry said.

Terry scored a season-high 32 points, including a 3-pointer with 26.9 seconds left, and Michael Finley added 18 to rally the Mavericks from a seven-point, fourth-quarter deficit for a 97-93 victory over the Houston Rockets on Saturday.

"I wouldn't consider 'Jet' a classic point guard," said Mavericks coach Avery Johnson, who was exactly that during his 16-year NBA career. "But he gets the job done."

The victory evened the best-of-seven, first-round series at two games each, with the road team winning all four games. Game 5 is Monday night in Dallas.

"Hopefully, home will be a safe haven at some point in this series," Mavericks guard Jerry Stackhouse said. "I think the pressure has been on us and now that the series is even, the pressure should be about the same."

Nowitzki finished with 18 points on 4-for-14 shooting.

McGrady led Houston with 36 points, and Yao Ming added 20.

"Did I have enough help? Absolutely," McGrady said. "I wouldn't be in this situation if I didn't have enough help. I just think that right now everybody wants it so bad, we're just not staying poised."

Celtics 110, Pacers 79

In Indianapolis, Paul Pierce had 30 points, seven rebounds and eight assists, and Boston overcame the loss of suspended Antoine Walker to even the series with Indiana at 2-2.

Walker drew a one-game suspension for pushing an official Thursday night.

Stephen Jackson led Indiana with 24 points. The 31-point setback was the worst in the team's playoff history, surpassing a 24-point loss to Orlando on June 4, 1995, in the seventh game of the Eastern Conference finals.

Game 5 is Tuesday night in Boston.

Wizards 117, Bulls 99

In Washington, Gilbert Arenas had 32 points, seven rebounds and seven assists to help Washington beat Chicago and win a playoff game for the first time in 17 years.

The win was the first since May 8, 1988, when Washington beat Detroit 106-103 in Game 4 of a first-round series. Of immediate concern for the Wizards is that they cut the Bulls' series lead to 2-1, with Game 4 in Washington on Monday.

Larry Hughes added 21 points and seven rebounds for the Wizards, Antawn Jamison had 21 points and eight rebounds, and Etan Thomas finished with 20 points on 8-for-9 shooting and had nine rebounds.

Tyson Chandler led Chicago with 15 points and 10 rebounds.

The series matches teams that sent legend Michael Jordan packing, the Bulls by dismantling their championship lineup in 1998 and the Wizards by denying Jordan an executive post after his two-year return as a player ended in 2003.

After winning six NBA titles, the Bulls struggled for six seasons as league doormats while rebuilding around young talent, earning the nickname "Baby Bulls."

The Bulls were 23-59 last season and began this season 0-9, matching the worst start in club history, before finding their form and finishing 47-35.

Spurs 86, Nuggets 78

In Denver, Manu Ginobili provided a spark off the bench for the second straight game and Robert Horry hit two big 3-pointers in the fourth quarter to help San Antonio beat Denver for a 2-1 series lead.

Ginobili had 32 points, Horry finished with 13 and Duncan had 11.

Carmelo Anthony led Denver with 19 points.

AP, Reuters, AFP

Cua tops Standard chess

SHERCILA Cua drew her final round match with Woman National Master Catherine Perena in just 16 moves of a London System Opening to win the 2005 National Standard Open chess championship.

Cua actually finished the nine-round event tied with Enerose Magno and Perena with seven points each, but won the title after the tiebreak.

Magno had earlier agreed to a quick, 18-move draw of a Slav Defense with 2001 National women champion Joanne Toledo.

Cua, Magno and Perena all advanced to the grand finals set June 3 where they will join seeded players WIM Sheerie Joy Lomibao, WIM Beverly Mendoza, WNM Loreshyl Cuizon and 14-year-old WNM Aices Salvador.

Marlon Bernardino

FINAL STANDINGS:

7.0—Shercila Cua, Enerose Magno; WNM Catherine Perena;

6.5—Maria Zayra Dela Cruz, WNM Joanne Toledo, Arianne Aguja, Therese Gonzales, Kimberly Jane Cunanan, Jose Rulp-Ylem, Sherily Cua, Genelina De Ramos.

RP cyclists dominate GMA C

NATIONAL cyclists dominated the three-day GMA Cup-Tour de Hundred Islands with Frederick Feliciano bagging provisional overall individual honors and his Air21 squad unofficially claiming the overall team title.

Feliciano's victory in the grueling 233-km Olongapo to Baguio City (via Kennon Road) second stage Saturday proved decisive as all 82 participating riders virtually finished in one, big pack in yesterday's 195-km Baguio City to Lucap (Alaminos) third stage topped by the ageless Wilfredo Calosa in four hours, 40 minutes and nine second

Organizers, however, release the official result four hours after the thir stage was completed be appeal by the contine laden squads—Pagcor ipino and Pagcor Vel

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Monday, May 2, 2005

WOWmalingMali!
9PM SABADO SABAGO!
ABC
ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Showbiz No. 1 (4:25 PM)	Yu-Gi-Oh! (5:10 PM)	Naruto (5:35 PM)	Vidjoking	TV Patrol World		Kamao	Hiram	Spirits	Memories Of Bali	Stained Glass	OK Fine Whatever			Insider
ABC 5			Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	EZ Shop	Anime Ring Kaisho				Sentro	Friends	The Apprentice		Fear Factor		Big News	Pops!		Billboard On-Air	
GMA 7		Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Now and Forever	Glass Shoes	One Piece	Hungry Heart	Knockout	24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Dama	All About Eve (8:45 PM)	Full House (9:15 PM) Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita			Sakal		
RPN 9	Metro TV Shopping			Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Scare Tactics	The Ring	Infamous Murders	NBA On RPN					Newswatch Now	Sex & the City	Road Trip	
IBC 13		Lifestyle		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Krusada Kontra Krimen		Home Shopping Network		Vietnam Revisited (2003 SEG Review)		One-On-One	2005 Japan 9-Ball Festival		IBC News Tonite	Linawin Natin	
JackTV		Wow		Slamball		Rated	Zeta Project	Mucha Lucha!	Spiderman	Stargate SG1		Witchblade		Twilight Zone					
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Rugrats	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Nick Mix						Rugrats
MYX		Urban MYX		Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Mellow MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	OPM MYX Countdown		My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		Complete Savages	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Friends	Will & Grace	The O.C.		Queer eye For The Straight Guy		Entertainment Tonight Weekend		Temptation Island	
Studio 23		Urban MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	Ragnarok	Project Arms	Wazzup Wazzup	Fightbox	Jake 2.0		Charmed		News Central	The West Wing		Travel Time
AXN		Lost		The Contender		The Contender		7 Days (Season III)		Alias (Season III)		Fear Factor (Season V)		The Contender		CSI: Miami		CSI: Miami	
Star World	Weird TV	The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Ally McBeal		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	The King Of Queens	Everybody Loves Raymond/ Still Standing	Grounded For Life	Frasier	The Casino/Boston Public		Friends	The King Of Queens
CNN				Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News Asia		World News	Living Golf	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
National Geographic		Built For The Kill		Totally Wild	Wildlife Diary	Be The Creature		The Snake Wranglers	Croc Chronicles With Dr. Brady Barr	Wow		About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials Mission: Battle Of The Arctic Giants		Built For The Kill/Into The Lost World		Totally Wild	Wildlife Diary
Solar Sports													NBA TV Daily	NBA Playoffs First Round					Destruction Finals
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Food 911	E! True Hollywood Story		NY Fashion Week	Life & Style		Brini Maxwell Show	Modern Girl's Guide	Breathing Room	Genuine Article
HBO			The Championship Season				Swept Away (5:25 PM)			Superman II (6:55 PM)				National Security			Consequence		
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	Sylvester & Tweety Mysteries	Mucha Lucha!	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock	Gundam Wing	Shaman King	Looney Tunes Show		The Powerpuff Girls	Dexter's Laboratory	Time Squad	Thundercats	He-Man & The Masters Of The Universe	Gundam Seed
ESPN			Asian Tour: BMW Asian Open Day4									Sportscenter Asia			Premier Snooker League '05				Sportscenter Asia
Disney Channel	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	The Sleepover Club	Art Attack/[illegible] Bunny	Buzz Lightyear Of Star Command	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Wonderful World Of Disney			My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	America's Funniest Home Video	According To Jim	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Cinemax	Innocent Moves			Another 48 Hrs. (4:15 PM)			The Birds II: Land's End (5:45 PM)				Landslide (7:20 PM)			Dreamcatcher			Just Cause (10:35 PM)	Forever Young (11:10 PM)	The District (11:25 PM)
Hallmark Channel	Who's The Boss	Wife Swap		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Who's The Boss	Bewitched	The District		Wife Swap						Civilizations	
Discovery Channel		American Chopper		Extreme Machines		Wild Science		Ultimate Discovery		Unsolved History				Wild Discovery		Ultimate Discovery		Dial M	
NBN	Value Vision				Teledyaryo	Value Vision	Next Stop			Network Forum		Teledyaryo		The Working President	Concert at the Park				

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DiMarco grabs lead in Zurich Classic tilt

NEW ORLEANS—Masters runner-up Chris DiMarco made four birdies in 10 holes here Saturday to grab the lead before darkness halted the third round of the $5.5 million PGA Zurich Classic.

A storm delayed the start of the second round until late in the morning, allowing only 15 golfers to complete the round while 69 others remained on the course at dusk and are scheduled to resume play Sunday morning.

Ten of 18 PGA events this year have been hit with a weather delay. This one will see threesomes used Sunday with players possibly not being redrawn into new pairings for the fourth round.

DiMarco, 36, stood on 12-under par after 10 holes, one stroke ahead of 27-year-old American James Driscoll, who completed 11 holes.

"I'm glad we got through 10 holes," DiMarco said. "That saves my legs for tomorrow so 26 holes is fine."

This is DiMarco's first event since losing a Masters playoff to Tiger Woods.

Despite the title drought, DiMarco ranked among the top 20 money winners each of the past five years. He ranks ninth on the US PGA money list with $1.5 million and was runner-up at the World Golf Championships Match-Play Championship in February.

Driscoll, who has never finished better than 16th in a PGA event, birdied four of his final five holes in a bogey-free round Saturday.

India's Arjun Atwal, the leader after 36 holes, stood third on 10-under through 10 holes of his third round, one stroke ahead of Americans JJ Henry, Tim Petrovic and Lucas Glover.

AFP

UTERS

Cup bikathon

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Feliciano clocked an aggregate time of 16:11:56, followed by Albert Primero of the continental team with 16:12:09.

Feliciano's individual classification victory could earn him P50,000.

o-Verano pair les CJH event

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Chef, MRT, Golforce
H Dev. Co., Kork Inc.,

DHN COnstruction and Dev., and Splash Island were the other backers.

John Hay VP for marketing Shean Bedi and Jeck Mendoza, along with the duo of Dan Telefrancia and Chester Calpotura, made identical 122s to finish tied for third.

Others in the top 10 in Group 1 were Rudy Lockey-Jun Fernandez (123), Mel Corpuz-Beth Menchavez (123), Herr Bautista-Peter Chen (124), Monette Garcia-Raffy Garcia (125), club chair Robert Sobrepeña-Larry Tojino (125) and Marcelo Alfonso-Richard Joson (126).

The Bob Legaspi-Ricky Velasco combination had a 116 (56-60) to grab the crown in the Group 2 division. Lady golfers Lilibeth Ratcliffe and Sonia Bruce escaped with a one-point victory, 113-114, in Group 3.

aayniLA targets rd TM triumph

Merces tries to lead
MayniLA in its bid for a
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match-up pits Team Pasig of Rep. Dodot Jaworski against Team Pangasinan of Rep. Mark Cojuangco.

Team Cavite of Gov. Ayong Maliksi also guns for a second win when it faces Team Makati of Councilor Rico J. Puno. Team Makati is at 1-1. The clash is made even more interesting by the expected duel between the pacesetters of the TM Taco Master Award.

"I know our female players need exposure through organized competition. This way, *aangat sila* (they'll improve)," said league founder and organizer Ramon Tuason.

Highlights of the matches will be shown in the TM9Ball Ang Bagong Sibol, aired Thursdays and Fridays at 9:30 p.m. over IBC-13.

Reyes he is not, but Pagulayan is good to watch

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

CANADA-BASED world billiards champion Alex "The Lion" Pagulayan is hard to evaluate because we rarely see him play here. But he is much admired by many Filipinos not only because of his prowess at the pool table but also because of his loyalty and love for the Philippines.

In July last year following his stirring victory in the World Pool Championship in Taipei, Pagulayan said: "To my friends in the Philippines, don't worry. I'm still a Filipino."

Born in Cabagan, Isabela, on June 25, 1978, Pagulayan lost his Philippine citizenship several years ago when his parents migrated to Canada, where they later applied for naturalization. However, shortly after winning the world pool championship, Pagulayan filed a petition requesting that he be allowed to reacquire his Philippine citizenship under the dual citizenship law which Congress enacted in 2003. That request was granted by Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez.

"Pagulayan is again a Filipino," said lawyer Arvin Santos, head of the Bureau of Immigration task force that screens applicants for dual citizenship, stressing that although Pagulayan retains his Canadian citizenship, he may now enjoy all the rights and privileges of a Philippine citizen.

That is good news for Philippine sports. Pagulayan can now represent the country in future international billiards tournaments, including the coming Southeast Asian Games. In my view, his presence in the national team (together with several world-ranked players like 1999 world pool champion Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante) will surely boost the country's chances of winning top honors in any international meet. Simply put, their presence in the national team will make the opposition tremble in fear.

Pagulayan is good to watch. He plays with total commitment although at times he appears to take it easy. But don't be fooled. Behind that easy-going style is a mean machine, a ruthless player with a heart of steel. Like Bustamante, Pagulayan has an armory of booming breaks and creativity.

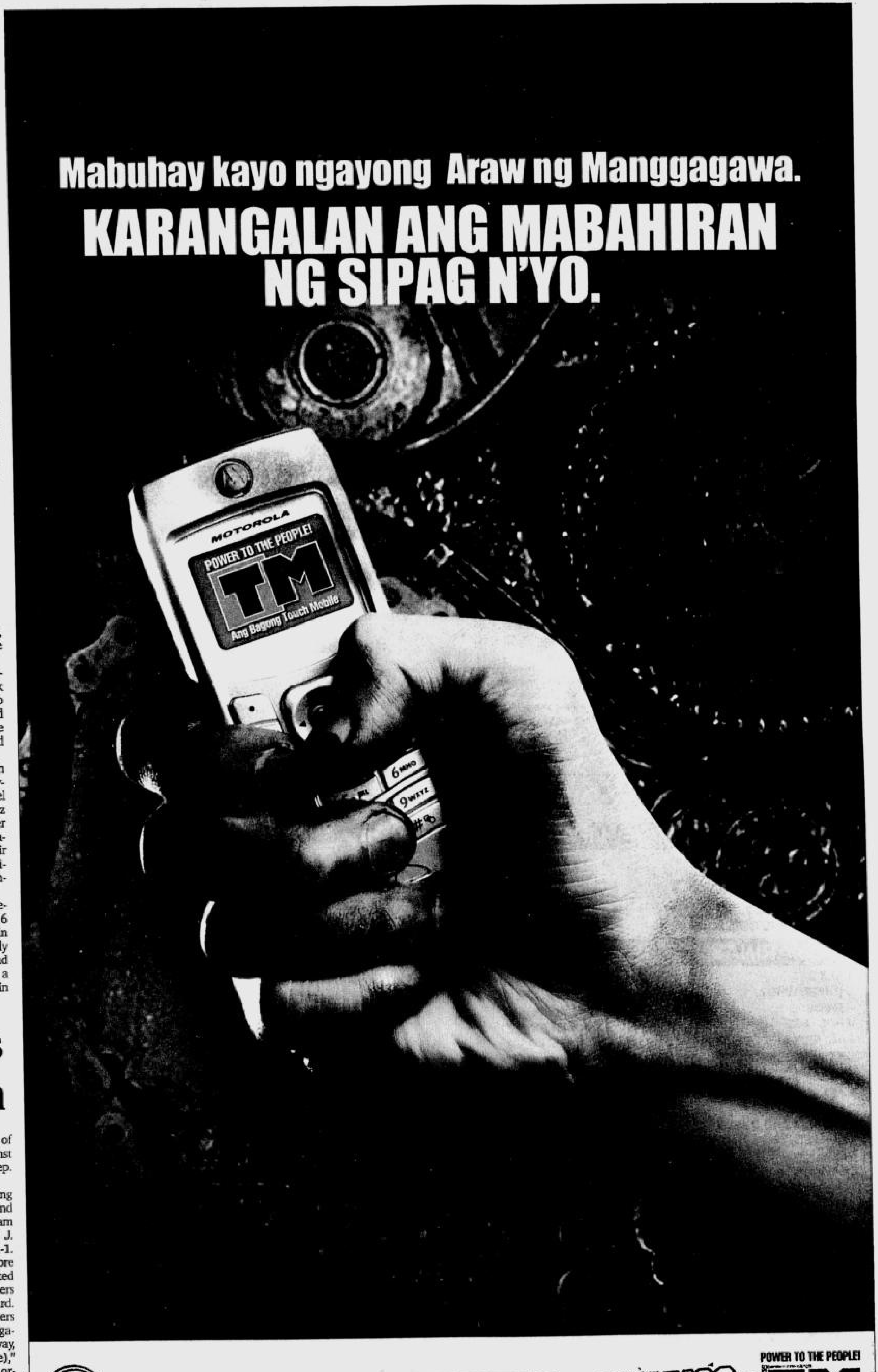
Just recently, Pagulayan made mincemeat of many-time world champion Earl "The Pearl" Strickland, beating the American veteran, 15-10, in the finals of the SML 9-Ball Championship in Calgary, Canada.

"But my biggest problem is my concentration," Pagulayan said in an interview. "I'm not a disciplined pool player. This year I want to change, go straight and do a lot of things. I need to change to reach my goals."

Among his goals is to get even with Bustamante in this year's second edition of the Hope All-Filipino Open on May 16-22. Organized by Puyat Sports headed by billiards godfather Aristeo "Putch" Puyat and Jemah Television of Mark Roces, the star-studded tournament stakes a total of P1 million in prizes.

Last year, the never-say-die Bustamante came from behind to beat Pagulayan, 15-13, in the finals and win the first prize of P500,000. "*Akala ko talo na naman* (I thought I would lose again)," said Bustamante after the game. A former World Pool League champion and world No. 1, Bustamante added he almost lost hope when Pagulayan took a commanding 8-2 lead, "but I regained my composure when he scratched twice."

For his part, Pagulayan said he would not commit the same mistake again. "I am more than ready this time."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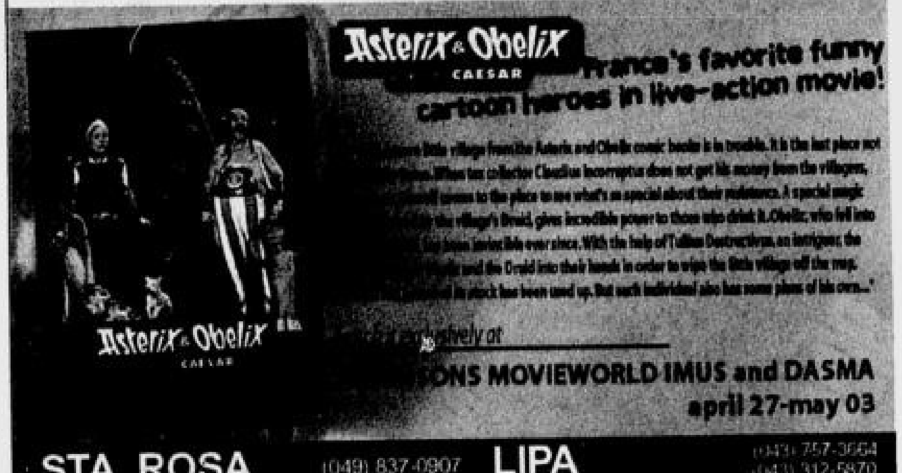
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1 XXX 2
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6 SAMARA RING 2

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G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 GUESS WHO	2 THE WEDDING DATE	3 THX XXX 2 12:05, 2:10, 4:15, 6:20, 8:25, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS	5 SAHARA	6 CAN THIS BE LOVE	7 THE INTERPRETER
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 CAN THIS BE LOVE 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05	2 XXX 2 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 9:45		
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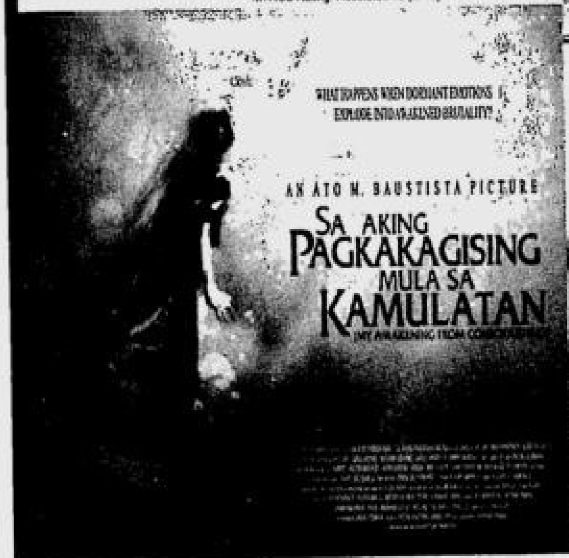
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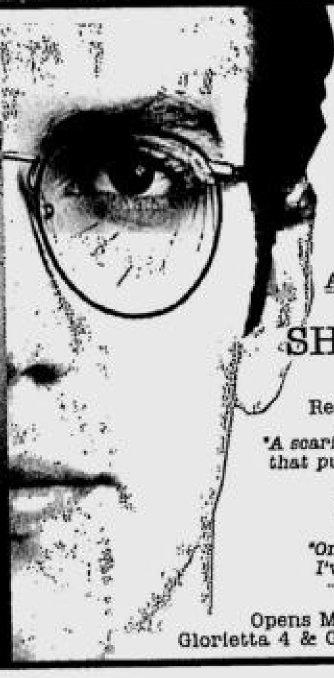

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Catch Lilo's summer musical show featuring Bea Binene as LILO, Chynna Ortaleza and Nadine Samonte as NANI, Dion Ignacio and Tyrone Perez as DAVID, Paul Salas as DANIEL. Plus the SOP Boys Emil and Yexel.
Directed by: Freddie Santos

May 13, 4 pm and 6 pm, Activity Center

Reserved seats on a first-come, first-serve basis for shoppers who present P300 worth of receipts on May 13.

Toney outpoints Ruiz for WBA title

NEW YORK—James Toney did almost as he promised, outpointing but not knocking out John Ruiz to win the WBA heavyweight title Saturday—and driving Ruiz into retirement.

Toney, 36, a former champion at three other weights who took his first title in 1991, won just his third heavyweight bout to become only the third one-time middleweight champion to take boxing's top crown.

At 106 kilograms (233 pounds), Toney was outweighed by four kilograms (eight pounds), and the weight looked better on Ruiz. Not that it mattered as Toney wore down the natural heavyweight to win 116-111 on two cards, 115-112 on the other.

While the extra weight didn't look good on Toney, he never lost the swagger he carried into the Madison Square Garden ring. And as the fight swung his way, he grimaced in mock pain at Ruiz and even did a little shuffle after the eighth round.

"I didn't expect much from John, because he is an average fighter. John Ruiz is stupid, he can't change his style, he only knows how to fight one way," Toney said.

Ruiz's manager/trainer, Norman Stone, said his man is through fighting.

"John's done. Farewell," Stone said. "This kid has never ever said anything bad about the things that have been said about him."

Ruiz, 33, landed only 28 percent of his power punches to 57 percent for Toney, and it naturally made a difference. Yet it was not a hard punch that sent Ruiz to the canvas early in the seventh round, but a right-left combination. Ruiz claimed he slipped, but replays showed Toney connected just before Ruiz went down. *AP*

JAMES Toney rocks John Ruiz (right) on the way to winning the heavyweight title. REUTERS

SPORTSWATCH

Ilocos tops IRAA

ILOCOS Norte won the Ilocos Region Athletic Association (IRAA) meet for a record sixth straight time recently. Ilocos Norte amassed a total of 148 gold medals, more that the combined 127 of the rest of the field. Pangasinan I finished second in the overall race with 37 gold medals. Ilocos Norte also collected 58 silver and 81 bronze medals.

The annual meet was almost shelved until Michael Keon, the former director of Gintong Alay, offered Ilocos Norte as host of the event.

PBAPC grabs Japa lead

HOST PBA Press Corps vaulted into solo leadership and newcomer PBA Chairman's Office got off to an auspicious debut yesterday in the annual Raffy Japa Cup basketball tournament at the La Salle-Greenhills court. Dayong Mendoza scored 17 of his game-high 26 points in the fourth quarter to power the Scribes over defending champion Stats, 68-53, for a 2-0 record in the tourney sponsored by ABC 5, San Miguel Corp., Cindy's Tacloban and Nature's Spring. The hosts, backed this year by Charlie Dy and Dorian Peña's 24 to Score, also drew 20 points from Remate's Jojo Caunceran and are now a half game ahead of idle co-opening day winner ABC 5. The team of PBA chair Buddy Encarnado polished off Manpower, 106-53, to prove it is a power to be reckoned with in the tourney being held in honor of the late founding president of the PBA Press Corps.

JVC Davao listing deadline

DEADLINE for the Davao leg of the JVC Regional Badminton Championships is set today, the organizing IMG announced yesterday. For details, contact (082) 2555700/ (082) 3000800. The event, which serves as the third stop of the four-stage regional circuit featuring the elite division, 16-under category and the intercollegiate team championships, is slated May 10-13 at the Wheels and More Drive, JP Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City. The JVC Open Badminton Championships is set July 4-10 at the Glorietta. Bacolod closes out the four-leg regional swing May 16-20 at the Pohang Badminton Center at Dr. Pablo Torre St., Bacolod City. Last day for listup is on May 12. For details, call (034) 433 3632/ (034) 433 1295.

Checkmate to Lipa, Laguna

THE MILO Checkmate clinic will be held in Lipa starting today up to May 7 at the Robinson Mall activity area from to 2 to 5:30 p.m. The clinic will be held from May 9 to 14 at Angels in Heaven School in Cabuyao and at Learning Links in Sta. Rosa Silang. In Metro Manila, the fifth regular weekly offering also opens today. Classes will be held at McDonald's–Ayala Alabang, Rizal Memorial Sports Complex and at J&F Divino Bldg. in Quezon City. Enrollees are advised to proceed at the venue of their choice before the clinic starts or call 4358412 or 8268560 and 0916-8521069. For Cabuyao, call 049-243-2435 and for Sta. Rosa, call 049-5410888 or 67000888 and 0917-8193912.

First Monsay Cup May 27

THE RAMON Magsaysay High School-España Batch '83 will hold the first Monsay High Cup golf tournament on May 27 at Club Intramuros, a one-day fund-raising event to help in the computer education program of RMHS. Sponsored by Philippine Games and Amusement Corp., Network Solutions, Interfaces Corp., Haze Phils., Eastern Telecoms and South Point Driving Range, the tournament is open to all graduates of RMHS. Tee-off time is between 1-3 p.m. Tickets are pegged at P1,500 with buffet dinner and raffle prizes. Grand prize is a trip for two to Boracay's Pearl of the Pacific (three days, two nights). For more details, contact Imee Reyes at 0917-8494313, Reuel Obar at 0917-8572253, and Jean Malanum of the Manila Bulletin.

Roligon: 100 fights today

THE QUALIFYING round of Roligon Mega Cockpit's Game Ka Na Ba 5-Cock Derby continues at 4 p.m. today with over 100 cockers and breeders seeing action. Eighteen entries have posted two wins each in last Saturday's opening round, witnessed by an overflow crowd. Derby host Rolly Ligon has put up a guaranteed prize of P2 million and an imported Isuzu Big Horn for the fastest win. Meanwhile, 40 entries have signed up for the 3-cock derby of Boy Valenzuela. Other interested parties may call 8332275, 8331638 and 8529812.

Big Event slated May 14

THE EXPLOSIVE duel of derby champions will have a sequel on May 14 at the Las Piñas Coliseum. Dubbed as Big Event Part II 6-Cock Derby, the one-day tilt is considered the ultimate battle of prominent cocker-sportsmen due to the staggering entry fee required, which is much higher than that of the Word Slasher Cup. Meanwhile, the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 7-Cock Derby series resumes on May 16 and 18. Interested parties may call 8731040 and 9743910.

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Diri ta bai sa GMA

Castañares retains crown

By Salven L. Lagumbay

MANDAUE CITY—Dindo "Diesel" Castañares retained his World Boxing Foundation (WBF) junior welterweight title Friday with a fifth round technical knockout win over Australian Steven Marks at the Mandaue Cultural and Sports Center.

Castañares came back from a slow start to knock down Marks in the third round and was in complete control of the 12-round fight when the Australian quit before the start of the fifth round.

Marks told referee Bruce McTavish during the break between rounds that he could not continue due to a severe injury to his right shoulder, which the Filipino had battered late in the fourth round.

Games and Amusements Board physician Jose Unabia revealed later that Marks may have suffered a dislocated shoulder blade due to the blows inflicted by Castañares.

It was an unexpected ending to an exciting bout that had Marks drawing applause from the crowd as he sent Castañares backpedaling in the first round.

After a very close second round, Castañares started to trade punches with the visiting Aussie, sending his rival down in the dying seconds of the third with a big right to the face following a series of shots to the body.

The defending champ continued his attack in the fourth, unleashing two right hands to Marks' right shoulder that eventually proved decisive for the Filipino.

GAB chair Eric Buhain, who was at ringside, congratulated Castañares for the victory.

The victory improved Castañares' win-loss-draw record to 16-3-1 with 12 KOs while Marks' slate dipped to 12-10-2 with 6 KOs.

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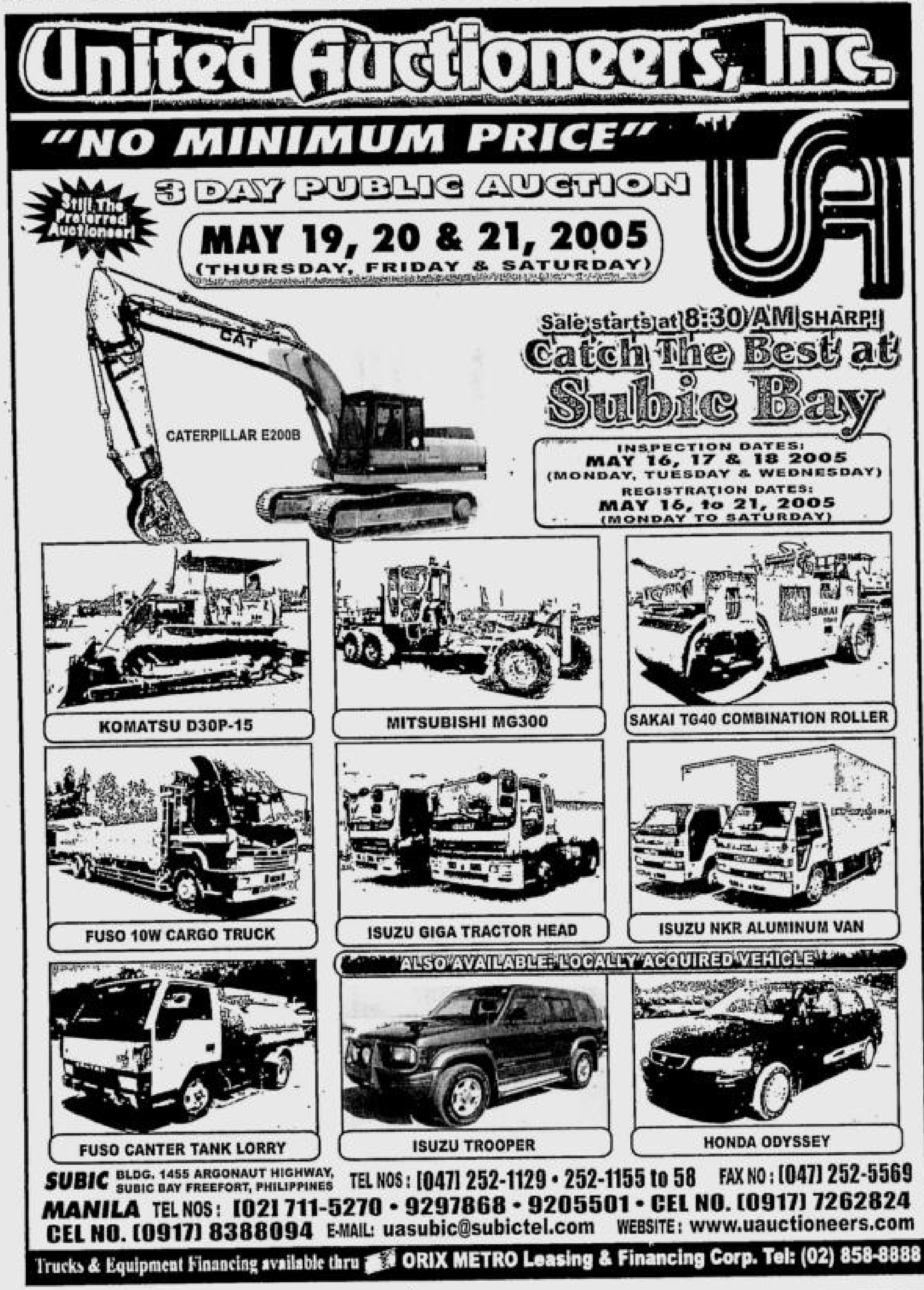

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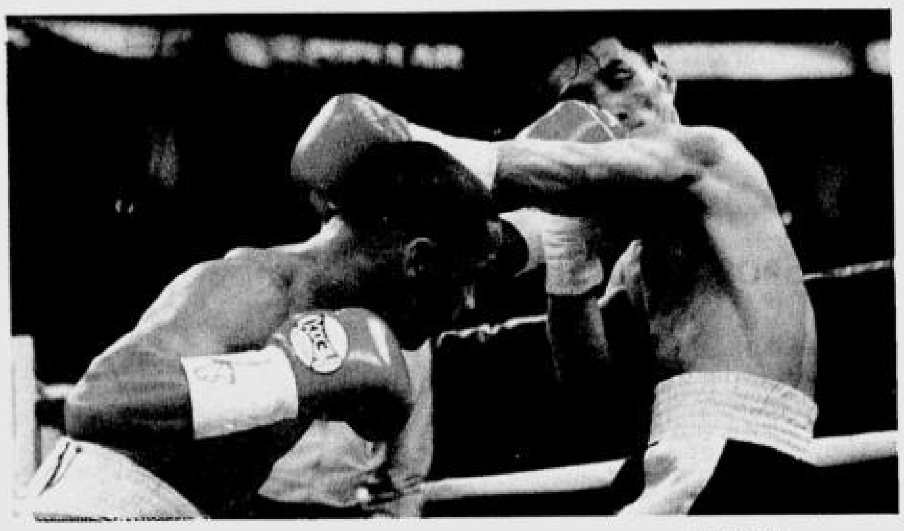
FOILED
FILIPINO challenger Noel Tuñacao (right) takes a blow from Puerto Rican Ivan Calderon during their WBO strawweight championship bout at the Coliseo de Puerto Rico in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Calderon retained his title when the referee stopped the fight in the eighth round. AP

NBC: Iligan routs CDO

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Newcomer Iligan City made an auspicious debut in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship Saturday by whipping the Cagayan de Oro Stars, 79-66, at the Xavier University gym here.

Mayor Lawrence Cruz's Crusaders, who are also backed by Councilor Varf Belmonte, Lian Hong Co., Krisland Commercial Corp. and Upper Pool Water Refilling Station, surged to a 62-44 lead in the final canto and then survived a fiery Stars rally to silence the huge hometown crowd.

Former JRU Bomber Marco Fajardo and ex-Baguio Cardinal Joseph Roque combined for 35 points to spark the Crusaders' triumph in the tourney sponsored by Panasonic, Accel, Molten, spring Cooking Oil, Sulpicio Lines, Cebu Pacific, Philtranco, Sunbolt Sports Drink, Nature's Spring, Far Eastern Insurance, Skygo Motorcycles, Sirlitz Solutions Provider, Cebuana Lhuillier, Prime Channel, Ping Ping Lechon, Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.

The scores:

Iligan 79—Fajardo 23, Roque 12, Kong 11, Cavan 10, Canoy 6, Sagad 6, De Guzman 5, Faustino 4, Ayodelle 2, Reyes 0, Baguio 0, Cariosa 0, Cosingan 0, Bangloy 0, Oliveros 0.

CdO 66—Ortiguesa 23, Neri 17, Navales 12, Dela Victoria 6, Polistico 4, Numeran 4, Agusan 3, Torres 0, Jabagat 0, Malonzo 0, Altante 0, Coldura 0, Mendoza 0, Rivera 0.

Quarters: 21-12, 35-19, 56-41, 79-66

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

NOTICE OF SALE THRU AUCTION

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)** wishes to announce that it will be accepting sealed offers for the Sale thru Auction of US Long Grains Hard Milled White (4% brokens) under 2004 USPL-480 Title I Program as follows:

Commodity	Volume	Indicative Price	Location
Non-fortified and Iron-fortified Rice	57,010 MT more or less	P1,100.00/bag	NFA-NCR and Region III Warehouses

The pre-auction conference and auction proper shall be held at 10:00 a.m. at the NFA Board Room, 10th Flr., Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodrigue Sr. Ave., Q.C. on the following dates or until the whole volume for auction has been sold/exhausted:

Pre-Auction Conference	Auction Proper
May 9, 2005	May 12, 2005
May 17, 2005	May 19, 2005

To qualify, all interested bidders are required to submit the following documents:

a. Original and xerox copy of NFA license (retailing, wholesaling and/or milling).
b. In case of representative, a duly notarized authorization from the owner, partner, chairman or president that he or she is authorized to represent the business entity in the pre-auction, auction proper and all activities thereto.
c. Offer must be accompanied by Bid Bond equivalent to 10% of the volume bidded in the form of Cashier's or Manager's check payable to NFA issued by a reputable commercial bank in Metro Manila.

Interested bidders may secure the terms and conditions starting May 9, 2005 at DMO OCD, 5th Floor from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For any inquiries, please contact Ms. Espie Tecson at tel. nos. 712-1572 and 712-1708.

Bid documents will be available on May 9, 2005 and May 17, 2005 to qualified bidders/offerors upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P3,000.00.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality thereof, and to accept only such bids that are advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) CONRADO DL. IBAÑEZ
Assistant Administrator and
Chairman, Disposition Committee

(PDI - April 30 & May 2, 2005)

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION FOR NEGOTIATED OFFER

The Development Bank of the Philippines will entertain offers on a First-Come, First-Served basis at the Asset Management Department, 2nd Floor, DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties:

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM SELLING PRICE
REAL ESTATE			
BATANGAS			
AM-CP-051	Bo. Natu, Rosario	89,371 m² 4 contiguous vacant agricultural lots (TCT Nos. T-118608 to T-118611)	P 6,618,600.00
AM-CP-052	Brgy. Namuco, Rosario	90 m² commercial lot (TCT No. 118604) with bldg. & imp.	P 1,638,000.00
CAVITE			
DAS-007	Bo. San Juan, Gen. Trias	654 m² 3 parcels of residential lots (TCT Nos. T-102914 to T-1024916) with bldg. & imp.	P 2,200,000.00
DAS-008	Poblacion, Rosario	442 m² 2 parcels of residential lots (TCT Nos. T-1024912 and T-1024913) with bldg. & imp.	P 3,058,500.00
RIZAL			
	Roseville Subd., Brgy. San Juan, Taytay	222 subdivision lots with 61 housing models:	
AM-CP-053a	Blk. 1 Lots 1 - 22	1,018 m² TCT Nos. T-659896 to T-659917	P 2,044,000.00
AM-CP-053b	2 1 - 21	955 m² TCT Nos. T-659918 to T-659938	P 1,599,000.00
AM-CP-053c	3 1 - 13	622 m² TCT Nos. T-659939 to T-659951	P 622,000.00
AM-CP-053d	4 1 - 15	695 m² TCT Nos. T-659952 to T-659966	P 1,042,500.00
AM-CP-053e	5 1 - 26	1,273 m² TCT Nos. T-659967 to T-659992	P 2,617,000.00
AM-CP-053f	6 1 - 17	830 m² TCT Nos. T-659993 to T-659995, T-659882 to T-659895	P 1,993,800.00
AM-CP-053g	7 1 - 16	1,129 m² TCT Nos. T-659864 to T-659879	P 3,882,200.00
AM-CP-053h	8 1 - 16	1,079 m² TCT Nos T-659853 to T-659863, T-659794 to T-659798	P 3,761,400.00
AM-CP-053i	9 1 - 22	1,038 m² TCT Nos. T-659799 to T-659820	P 1,868,400.00
AM-CP-053j	10 1 - 22	994 m² TCT Nos. T-659821 to T659842	P 3,483,200.00
PAMPANGA			
AM-JA-055	Bo. San Isidro, Minalin	21,408 m² agro-industrial lot (TCT No 368096-R) with factory/residential bldg & imp.	P26,102,900.00
CHATTELS (sale on per item/set and "as-is, where-is" basis)			
AM-JA-056a	Brgy. San Isidro, Minalin, Pampanga	2 units conveyorized powder coating oven, 1 unit Shearing Machine, AMADA type; 1 unit hydraulic press, 50 tons capacity; 1 unit power press, 30 tons capacity	P 306,825.00
AM-JA-056b	No. 8 Banner St., Bagong Ilog, Pasig	1 unit PVL shrinking machine; 2 units hydraulic press, 250 tons capacity and machinery/equipment/furniture/fixtures	P 761,250.00

Forms for negotiated offers may be obtained from AMD-Acquired Assets.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers: 892-1566/893-7172 or 818-9511 local 2218/2252 for Code starting with AM, (074) 442-5305, or 892-3836 and 818-9511 local 2227 Code starting with DAS

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI – May 2, 2005)

PORO POINT MANAGEMENT CORPORATION
A Subsidiary of Bases Conversion Development Authority

PORO POINT MANAGEMENT CORPORATION INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS FOR NEGOTIATION

Asset Disposition Program

The Poro Point Management Corporation (PPMC) is informing the public that on April 14, 2005, the Special Bids and Awards Committee (SBAC) declared a Failure of Bidding for the development and privatization of the 65.5 hectares Tourism Complex and 40-hectare Airport Area covering an approximate area of one hundred five and a half (105.5) hectares. The reason for the Failure of Bidding is that there is only one (1) proponent and only International Thunderbird Gaming Corporation has been pre-qualified to participate in the bidding and negotiation process pursuant to SBAC rules and regulations.

In view of the foregoing, we are now inviting Interested Proponents to participate in the negotiations for the development and privatization of the 65.5 hectares Tourism Complex and 40-hectare Airport Area covering an approximate area of one hundred five and a half (105.5) hectares.

The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the negotiations which outline the requirements for pre-qualification and submission of proposals, among others, are available to interested proponents at the PPMC Office at Pennsylvania Avenue, Poro Point, San Fernando City, La Union on May 2, 2005 up to May 13, 2005 from Mondays thru Fridays, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A non-refundable cost of the TOR is PhP 20,000.00 payable to PPMC in Cash or Manager's Check.

Interested proponents may submit their Letters of Interest, the documentary requirements, and their proposals on or before May 20, 2005 until 3:00 p.m.

Interested proponents can direct their inquiries to:

THE CHAIRMAN
SBAC COMMITTEE
Poro Point Management Corporation
Poro Point Special Economic and Freeport Zone
Pennsylvania Avenue, Poro, San Fernando City
La Union

or they can contact Ms. Josefa Catherine T. Bada at telephone numbers (072) 242-4016 or (072) 888-5956 or send e-mail at ppmc@sflu.com.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ANTHONY C. MANGUIAT
Chairman
SBAC Committee

(PDI – April 29, May 2 & 10, 2005)

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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"I WOULD never put his family in a bad light."

Jodi protects Pampi's name by being picky about roles

By Gobleth Moulic
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Young actress Jodi Sta. Maria said her career in movies and television could be expected to take a different turn now that she is married.

Sta. Maria said she would definitely avoid sexy and/or adult roles "to protect the name of my husband."

Her husband is Panfilo "Pampi" Lacson Jr., son of the famous senator. They got married in Las Vegas only last March.

"I'm now very careful in choosing roles because I'm now a Lacson. I have the deepest respect for his family," said Jodi, who was in Baguio recently as part of ABS-CBN's Kapamilya Summer Caravan.

This was her own decision and no one, especially not her in-laws, ever meddled in her career in show business, she stressed.

Sta. Maria, 22, an exclusive ward of Star Magic, the network's talent center, and Panfilo Jr., 21, tied the knot at the chapel of the Mandalay Bay Hotel on March 27.

Should a mature role interest her in the future, she said, she would seek the opinion not only of her husband but also of his parents, whom she described as "very close to me and my family."

Coming home

"I would take it upon myself to inform Pampi and my in-laws about the project, because whatever decision or action I make would reflect on my husband's family. I would never put them in a bad light," she told the INQUIRER.

She said she was eager to see Pampi, who is arriving from the United States this month.

While her husband was in the US, she said, they kept in touch through text messages and phone calls.

Sta. Maria stays at the Lacson home in Parañaque when she is not working. She said she spends her time "eating, sleeping, exercising and cross-stitching."

"I don't party if it's not work-related, or even go out with my friends when my husband is not around. When I have to go somewhere, I make sure I inform my in-laws, so they won't worry about me," she said.

Asked how Senator Lacson treats her at home, Jodi said: "He has been a very good father to me. He may be serious about his work but he is very nice and kind to his family."

The actress co-hosts "Perfect Moments," a reality makeover show with Angel Jacob and Rosanne Prieto.

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■ 'Pinoy Pop' finalists /A2-8

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NALZARO

TAKE FIVE

Death threats merely disrupt his daily sked

By Marinel R. Cruz

"I CONDEMN the killing of journalists in the provinces. If a media practitioner has done you wrong, there are other ways to get back at him, like filing libel charges," said Cebu-based broadcaster Bobby Nalzaro.

Nalzaro helped organize a big rally, protesting the spate of killings. "I was one of the speakers," Nalzaro told INQUIRER Entertainment during a visit at the GMA 7 office in Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City.

Nalzaro is one of GMA 7's workhorses in the Visayas. He is anchorperson of the top-rating news program, "Balitang Bisdak," and host of "Bobby Nalzaro on Board: Saksi!" on dySS.

The man said to be Mike Enriquez's counterpart in Cebu won last year's KBP Golden Dove award for Outstanding Public Affairs Program Host for Radio.

Nalzaro is also a columnist of local papers SunStar Cebu and Super Balita.

How do you handle death threats?

I'm immune to death threats. I get them via text messages and phone calls—*'Mag-iingat ka,'* or *'Bilang na ang mga araw mo.'* I received the most number of threats at the height of the Ruben Ecleo Jr. case. (Cult leader Ecleo was jailed in 2002 for the brutal murder of his wife). Late last year, eight members of Ecleo's group (Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association) were arrested in Lapu Lapu City for possession of high-powered firearms. According to police reports, I was one of the targets.

Threats don't affect me much, except for disrupting my daily routine. Sometimes, I hire security escorts at night.

How do you protect your family?

I keep them away from the public eye. Although we're very cautious, I don't hire escorts to guard them. I, myself, am not very comfortable with people following me around. Sometimes, I make my son take a cab to school. In case anything happens to me, at least he is spared."

What's the best thing about being a broadcaster?

It's a continuous learning process. I can't just say I'm a veteran or I'm popular just because I've been a broadcaster for many years. We deal with issues daily.

Broadcasters play many roles. Sometimes, we are like the DSWD because people come asking for help. Other times, we are like public attorneys and fiscals because people run to us for legal assistance. Sometimes we act like the police for victims of injustice. We also assume the role of doctors who provide medicine to the sick.

What do Cebuano viewers prefer watching, local news programs or Manila news programs?

Local news. 'Balitang Bisdak' rates higher than '24 Oras' here. We cover the whole of Central Visayas, meaning Cebu, Siquijor, Negros Oriental and Bohol, parts of the Leyte provinces, Bacolod, San Carlos City, Ormoc and Camiguin, as well as Surigao in Mindanao.

Do you think GMA 7 is more competitive now?

Yes, of course. When we were new, we were considered the alternative program because ABS-CBN monopolized the local news. But when we started "Bisdak," the competition grew stiff. [And] we're getting stronger.

Allen Dizon
Ella V JC Parker
Katya Santos Gwen Garci and Jeffrey Quizon
Boso
Directed by Jon Red

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Boso is the first digital film by Digital Viva and directed by award-winning director Jon Red

synopsis:
"Boso", shot on a digital video, is a sexy dark comedy about Jake, caretaker of a boarding house by day and a peeping-Tom by night. In a place filled with twisted characters and absurd lives, he oversees each tenant's secrets, daily routines and private world.
Jake continues "playing God" until he meets and falls for Cecilia, a woman who makes him realize the essence of beauty - unseen by the eyes. Later, a tragic accident leads to an unexpected twist and dramatic confrontation.

APRIL 27-MAY 03

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MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangrila Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633.2227 / 6337851 loc. 171
1 (DOLBY) XXX 2 PG13
2 (DOLBY) THE INTERPRETER PG13
3 (DOLBY) CAN THIS BE LOVE GP
4 (DOLBY) GUESS WHO PG13
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) THE JACKET PG13

Filinvest
FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (SDDS) WEDDING DATE
2 (SDDS) XXX - 2 THE NEXT LEVEL
3 (DTS) SPANGLISH
4 GOLD (DTS) GUESS WHO
5 GOLD (DOLBY) THE INTERPRETER
6 GOLD (SDDS) PACIFIER
7 GOLD (DOLBY) XXX - 2 THE NEXT LEVEL
8 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
9 SAHARA
10 CAN THIS BE LOVE

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) THE INTERPRETER
2 (DOLBY) XXX 2
3 (DOLBY) GUESS WHO
4 (DOLBY) CAN THIS BE LOVE

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 XXX - 2 THE NEXT LEVEL
2 RING OF NIBELUNGS
3 CAN THIS BE LOVE
4 GUESS WHO

Araneta Center
CINEMA GUIDE
For Inquiries Pls. Call TICKETNET 911-5555
GATEWAY CINEPLEX 10
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GUESS WHO
XXX: STATE OF THE UNION
CAN THIS BE LOVE
FINDING NEVERLAND
THE INTERPRETER
THE WEDDING DATE
THE PACIFIER
SAHARA

ALI MALL CINEMAS
1 CAN THIS BE LOVE
2 XXX: STATE OF THE UNION
3 SAHARA
4 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
5 THE INTERPRETER

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 GUESS WHO
2 (DTS) CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 (DOLBY) XXX - 2 THE NEXT LEVEL
4 SAMARA (RING - 2)

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 CAN THIS BE LOVE
2 (DOLBY) SAMARA (RING - 2)
3 (DTS) XXX - 2 THE NEXT LEVEL
4 GUESS WHO

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 MISS CONGENIALITY
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 (DOLBY) SAHARA

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 ALONE IN THE DARK
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 (DOLBY) SAHARA
4 (DTS) BE COOL

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 XXX-2 THE NEXT LEVEL
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 (DOLBY) SPONGEBOB

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 CAN THIS BE LOVE
2 XXX-2 THE NEXT LEVEL
3 PARAISO

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 CAN THIS BE LOVE
2 XXX-2 THE NEXT LEVEL
3 BOOGEY MAN
4 RESERVED

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 XXX-2 THE NEXT LEVEL

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 PARAISO
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) CAN THIS BE LOVE
5 XXX-2 THE NEXT LEVEL

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 XXX-2 THE NEXT LEVEL
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 HIDE AND SEEK
4 SAMARA (RING 2)

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) MASK-2 SON OF THE MASK
2 PARAISO
3 MAPUSOK
4 (DTS) LEFT BEHIND

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) XXX-2 THE NEXT LEVEL
2 SAMARA (RING - 2)
3 (DTS) CAN THIS BE LOVE
4 KAULAYAW
5 OK KA PARE KO

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
2 PARAISO
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 (DOLBY) XXX-2 THE NEXT LEVEL
6 CAN THIS BE LOVE

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 CAN THIS BE LOVE
2 XXX-2 THE NEXT LEVEL
3 (DOLBY) HIDE AND SEEK
4 (DTS) SAMARA (RING 2)

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 SAMARA (RING - 2)
2 FINDING NEVERLAND
3 (DTS) SAHARA
4 (DOLBY) CAN THIS BE LOVE

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 CAN THIS BE LOVE
2 SAHARA
3 (DOLBY) MISS CONGENIALITY
4 (DTS) BE COOL

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 XXX-2 THE NEXT LEVEL
2 BOOGEY MAN
3 SPONGEBOB
4 CAN THIS BE LOVE

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007
1 (DOLBY) MASK-2 SON OF THE MASK
2 RESERVED

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 SAHARA
2 MISS CONGENIALITY

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 PARAISO
2 XXX-2 THE NEXT LEVEL

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

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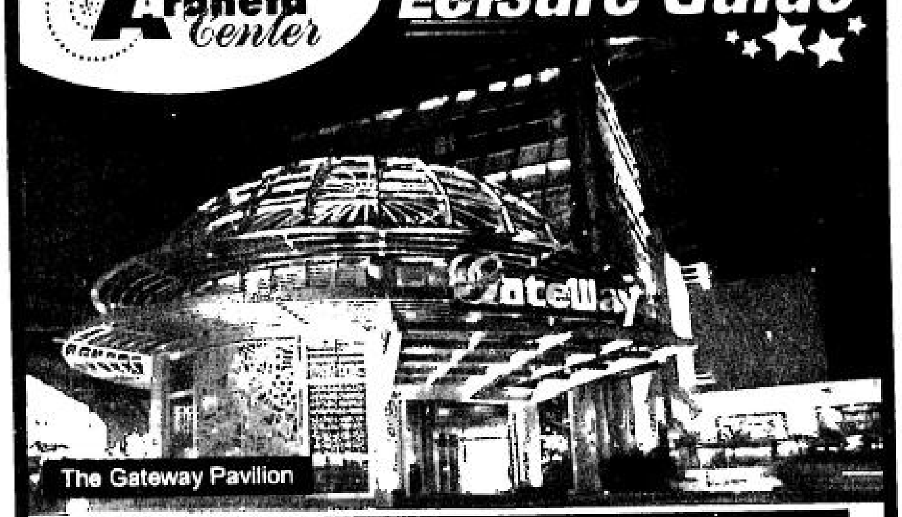
For the Horrible Truth ... out there!
หกตาย Six ท้าตาย

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed if accompanied by a parent or elder
OPENS ON MAY 4

Araneta Center Leisure Guide



The Gateway Pavilion

CINEMA SCHEDULES

Gateway CINEPLEX 10
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GUESS WHO
1:10 / 3:45 / 6:20 / 9:00
XXX: STATE OF THE UNION
12:40 / 3:00 / 5:20 / 7:40 / 10:00
CAN THIS BE LOVE
12:40 / 3:00 / 5:20 / 7:40 / 10:00
FINDING NEVERLAND
2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00
THE INTERPRETER
1:20 / 4:10 / 7:00 / 9:50
THE WEDDING DATE
1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30
THE PACIFIER
1:20 / 3:20 / 5:20 / 7:20 / 9:20
SAHARA
1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30

ALI MALL CINEMAS
❶ CAN THIS BE LOVE
11:30 / 1:50 / 4:10 / 6:30 / 8:50
❷ XXX: STATE OF THE UNION
11:30 / 1:50 / 4:10 / 6:30 / 8:50
❸ SAHARA
12:10 / 2:50 / 5:30 / 8:10
❹ RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
11:15 / 2:10 / 5:05 / 8:10
❺ THE INTERPRETER
12:00 / 2:50 / 5:40 / 8:30
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
2005 PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE May 4
4:45pm Coke vs. Purefoods / 7:35pm Talk N Text vs. Red Bull
THE 'C' SHOW
May 21, Saturday, 8pm
KEVYN LETTAU: MEMORIES OF LOVE
May 14, Saturday, 8pm
ASHANTI LIVE IN MANILA
May 26, Thursday, 8pm

CENTER EVENTS

GATEWAY MALL	*The Saturday Group Art Exhibit Featuring the combined works of the premier artists' group in the country including Mauro "Malang" Santos. May 2 to 15, Upper Ground Floor, Gateway Mall*
NEW STORES	*Fully Booked (Level 2), Time Zone (Level 3), Cello (Ground Floor) & Kashieca (Level 3) at Gateway Mall*
PERFORMANCES	*Tropicana, John Lesaca & Buhay featuring Tots Tolentino are set to perform on May 6, 7 & 8 at The Gateway Pavilion.*

LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

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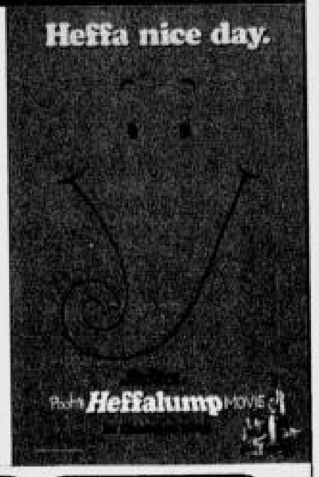
SM PREMIERE CINEMAS.



FOR INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING, SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

☎ CALLUS@ 833-9999

VISITUS@ www.smcinema.co

KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Red Carpet of
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
MAY 3
Cinema 1
SM Megamall
7:30 Pm

GUARANTEED SEATS

the podium cinema
1. xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
11:50 FS / 12:20 MF / 2:25 / 4:30 / 6:35
8:40 / 10:20 LFS / 10:45 LMF / 12:25 END
2. THE INTERPRETER
12:00 FS / 12:30 MF / 3:05 / 5:40
8:15 / 10:25 LFS / 10:50 LMF / 1:00 END
☎ 633-8876

sm megamall cinema 1
GUESS WHO
11:50 FS / 12:20 MF / 2:40 / 5:00
7:20 / 9:10 LFS / 9:40 LMF / 11:25 END
☎ 633-1901

sm cebu cinema
CINEMA 1: SAHARA
12:00 MF / 12:18 / 2:36 / 4:54 / 7:12
9:16 LFS / 9:30 LMF / 11:35 END
CINEMA 3: xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
11:30 MF / 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30
9:10 LFS/ 9:30 LMF / 11:10 END
☎ (032) 231-3876

METRO MANILA

sm megamall
1. GUESS WHO
2. THE INTERPRETER
3. RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
4. CAN THIS BE LOVE
5. SAMARA: RING 2
6. SAHARA
7. RESERVED
8. RESERVED
9. RESERVED
10. xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
11. CAN THIS BE LOVE
12. THE WEDDING DATE

sm city fairview
1. ONG BAK: THE THAI WARRIOR
2. GUESS WHO
3. THE WEDDING DATE
4. RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
5. SAHARA
6. CAN THIS BE LOVE
7. xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
8. THE PACIFIER
9. SAMARA: RING 2
10. THE INTERPRETER
11. THE JACKET
12. CAN THIS BE LOVE

sm city north edsa
1. xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
2. CAN THIS BE LOVE
3. RESERVED
4. THE WEDDING DATE
5. CAN THIS BE LOVE
6. RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
7. GUESS WHO
8. xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL

sm city manila
1. THE WEDDING DATE
2. GUESS WHO
3. THE INTERPRETER
4. xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
5. FINDING NEVERLAND
6. SAHARA
7. SAMARA: RING 2
8. THE PACIFIER
9. CAN THIS BE LOVE
10. THE JACKET
11. RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
12. CAN THIS LOVE

sm city sta. mesa
1. xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
2. RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
3. CAN THIS BE LOVED
4. RESERVED
5. RESERVED
6. THE WEDDING DATE
7. THE INTERPRETER
8. SAHARA
9. CAN THIS BE LOVE
10. GUESS WHO

sm city southmall
1. RESERVED
2. RESERVED
3. RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
4. THE INTERPRETER
5. FINDING NEVERLAND
6. THE WEDDING DATE
7. THE JACKET
8. SAMARA: RING 2
9. SAHARA
10. GUESS WHO

sm city bicutan
1. SAHARA
2. THE WEDDING DATE
3. GUESS WHO
4. SAMARA: RING 2

sm cinema tutuban
1. RESERVED
2. RESERVED
3. RESERVED
4. RESERVED

sm supercenter sucat
1. GUESS WHO
2. SAMARA: RING 2
3. SAHARA
4. THE WEDDING DATE

LUZON

sm city pampanga
1. xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
2. SAMARA: RING 2
3. THE WEDDING DATE
4. HIDE AND SEEK
5. THE PACIFIER
6. CAN THIS BE LOVE

sm city baguio
1. MS. CONGENIALITY 2
2. CURSED
3. THE PACIFIER
4. CLOSER

sm city batangas
1. xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
2. CAN THIS BE LOVE
3. SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
4. CAN THIS BE LOVE

sm city dasmariñas
1. SHAOLIN v.s EVIL DEAD
2. HIDE AND SEEK
3. SAMARA: RING 2
4. SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS

sm city marilao
1. SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
2. HIDE AND SEEK
3. THE WEDDING DATE
4. SAMARA: RING 2

sm city bacoor
1. ONG BAK: THE THAI WARRIOR
2. SAMARA: RING 2
3. xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
4. CAN THIS BE LOVE
5. xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
6. CAN THIS BE LOVE
7. SAHARA
8. THE JACKET

sm city lucena
1. CURSED
2. HIDE AND SEEK
3. CLOSER
4. MS. CONGENIALITY 2

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

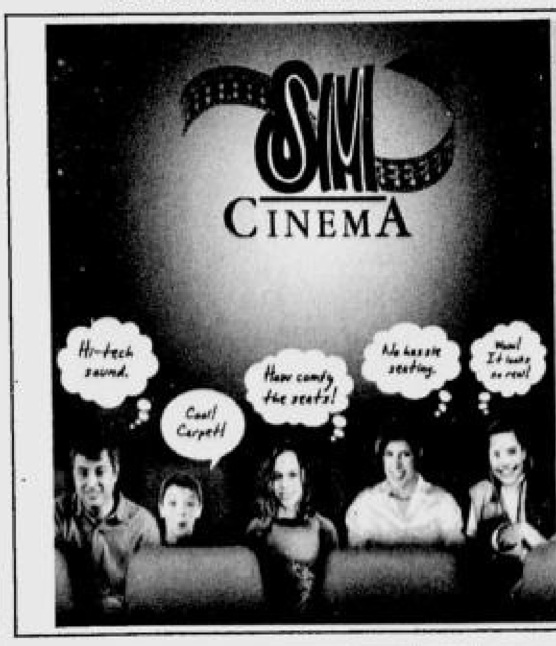
sm city cebu
1. SAHARA
2. RESERVED
3. xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
4. THE PACIFIER
5. MS. CONGENIALITY 2
6. FINDING NEVERLAND
7. BE COOL
8. CAN THIS BE LOVE

sm city iloilo
1. SHAOLIN v.s EVIL DEAD
2. RESERVED
3. BE COOL
4. THE PACIFIER
5. BOOGEYMAN
6. MS. CONGENIALITY 2
7. RESERVED
8. SAMARA: RING 2

sm city davao
1. THE PACIFIER
2. SAHARA
3. MILLION DOLLAR BABY
4. HOSTAGE
5. SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
6. HIDE AND SEEK

sm city cagayan de oro
1. MS. CONGENIALITY 2
2. THE PACIFIER
3. BE COOL
4. SAMARA: RING 2

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE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SM Southmall - Cinemas 3 & 4
SM Cebu - Cinemas 3 & 4
SM Megamall - Cinemas 10, 11 & 12

Coming soon on April 30 at
SM North Edsa - Cinemas 1 & 2

NOW SHOWING

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF DIE ANOTHER DAY

xXx 2
THE NEXT LEVEL

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SHANG CINEPLEX

① XXX 2
MTRCB: PG-13
12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00

② THE INTERPRETER
MTRCB: PG-13
10:50, 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10

③ CAN THIS BE LOVE
MTRCB: GP P120.00
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

④ GUESS WHO
MTRCB: PG-13
11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50

PREMIERE THEATRE THE JACKET
MTRCB: PG-13 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

Get Your Star Wars Movie Tickets Early!

Be one of the first to catch the simultaneous U.S. screening of Star Wars: Episode III Revenge of the Sith at the Shang Cineplex on May 18! Premiere screening starts at 10:00pm.

Advance tickets* for sale at no extra service fee from May 6, 2005 onwards. Available at the Shang Cineplex ticket counters at Level 6 and the ticket booth at Level 1.

* Selected screenings from May 18-22

Regular Ticket Price
Cinemas 1 to 4 - P150
Premiere Theatre - P295 (includes unlimited popcorn and beverage)
Call 633-7851, loc. 171 or 633-2227 / 633-4735 for more details.

Shangri-La Plaza

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NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1
GUESS WHO
11:40, 2:25, 5:00, 7:35, 10:10
PG13

CINEMA 2
TRIPLE X 2
10:50, 1:05, 3:20, 5:35, 7:50, 10:10
PG13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM
MAY 6 MONIQUE WILSON 9:00PM
MAY 7 2005 ZSA ZSA PADILLA & KARYLLE 9:00PM
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EASTWOOD CINEMAS

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-Philippine Daily Inquirer's
2004 Yearend
Reader Survey

For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 THE INTERPRETER
12:05, 2:55, 5:45
8:35, 11:10
PG-13

2 XXX 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
10:55, 1:20, 3:45
6:10, 8:35, 11:00
PG-13

3 GUESS WHO?
12:35, 3:10, 5:45
8:20, 10:50
PG-13

4 CAN THIS BE LOVE
1:05, 3:35, 6:05
8:35, 11:00
GP

star group of cinemas movie guide
IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

starmall EDSA-SHAW	METROPOLIS ALABANG star	starmall LAS PIÑAS
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3 Paraiso	1 Ring of Nibelungs	1 Son of the Mask
4 Can This Be Love	2 Paraiso	2 Rental Reservation
5 XXX 2	3 Under Renovation	
	4 Under Renovation	
	5 XXX 2	
	6 Can This Be Love	
Kids Salon and Fashion Show Starmall Edsa Apr 30 Saturday 2nd Level Food Court, 4pm		Star Model Search Live at Metropolis Star Alabang April 29-30 Fri. n Sat. 2pm

Rufa
Don't do

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

"SPEND wisely. Don't shop as if you're an *artista*. Show biz personalities get paid to look good. It's part of the job," sexy comedian Rufa Mae Quinto counsels INQUIRER Entertainment during a visit to her home in Quezon City.

The actress, who admits she spends a huge chunk of her earnings on Dior and Louis Vuitton shoes and bags, tells her fans: "'*Wag ninyo akong gayahin.* Invest in more important things, like real estate, jewelry or your own business."

Rufa Mae, 25, is very efficient in that department. She has put up her own traveling agency called Rufa Mae's Trips and Tours at the Second Level of Madison Square in Ortigas. She also owns a beauty salon—Booba's Secret, Salon for Ladies and Gentlemen—in BF Homes Parañaque. Last year, she co-produced the hit comedy, "Masikip sa Dibdib," with Viva Films.

OUT OF THE CLOSET

She said the five-bedroom Quinto home in Quezon City was bought with money she earned as an actress. "I can say that my work is stable because now I get to buy what I want. But in show biz, you never can tell. That's why I save for rainy days."

Rufa Mae will soon be seen with Robin Padilla in Mark Meily's "La Visa Loca." The movie is co-produced by Sharon Cuneta and Unitel Pictures. Rufa Mae said she was also set to co-produce a movie with Unitel in June.

"Shoes and bags are my weakness," said Rufa Mae as she ushers INQUIRER Entertainment into her dressing room. "*Inuubos ko nga lahat ng pera ko dyan.* When I was younger, I wore only one pair of shoes to school. It wasn't sturdy, *pero tiniis ko.* Now I'm able to buy things for myself, I make sure they're really good."

Each of Rufa Mae's bags is placed in a shoe sacks and stored in an appointed cabinet.

BAGS AND SHOES

"This Gucci bag (with red lining) is the first expensive bag I ever bought that has a matching pair of shoes. I bought the matching pieces back when the value of the Philippine peso was still high. I bought the pair of wedges because red was my favorite color at that time. *Gamit na gamit ito.* This was what probably turned me into an addict for matching signature shoes and bags.

"Right now, my favorite brand is Dior because they never go on sale. Other expensive brands are sold at a lower price after a few months. Feeling *ko*, unfair.

"Fendi isn't really a favorite, but my latest purchase is this bag with Fendi logos—of the current season. I know it has a matching pair of high-heeled sandals, but when I bought it, I had gotten tired of *ternos*. I used to be obsessed. Like, when I bought this leather brown bag from Gucci in San Francisco, I couldn't find matching shoes (shows strappy brown heels) that would fit me so I went to Las Vegas, but still there was nothing there. Finally, I got them on Rodeo Drive. *Na-career ko ta-*

HER shoes are carefully stored.

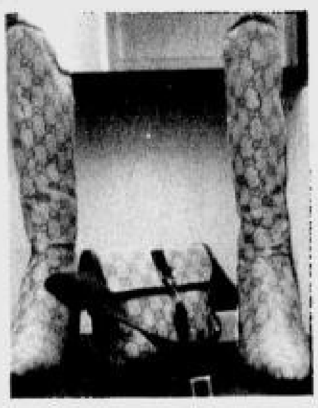
BEST COPY AVAILABLE

THE FAVORITE "gimmick" bag

SHE can be obsessive about shoes.

MEMORABLE pop-out number

BELLE Chongco blazer


BOOTS and bag lady

Mae:
as I do

"DON'T buy expensive accessories"

DESIGNER slippers, no less

laga! I also bought a pair of rubber shoes to go with it. This is for more casual occasions.

"During one of my last trips to Hong Kong, I bought two purple Louis Vuitton pouches. Last Holy Week, I went to Bangkok and bought my latest LV (small pink hand bag—*pang*-gimmick, she says) and Dior (floral handbag from Dior's spring collection). I like the Dior, it's very girly.

"My first-ever pair of Gucci sandals, I bought in Subic in 2000. *Naputol siya*. I had an accident while hosting an event in Davao. One of the heels got stuck in a manhole. *Grabe ang pagkadapa ko nun*. I was so depressed, I drove for six hours to go back to Subic just to buy another pair, but the shop wasn't selling them anymore.

"The first bag that Rudy (Hatfield, basketball player and Rufa Mae's boyfriend) gave me is this silver cylindrical bag from Louis Vuitton. It's been with me since 2001. He gave me another LV bag that's similar in material when I got nominated for an acting award. I didn't win it, but Rudy said it didn't matter, he had something for me.

"Once or twice a year, I go abroad to shop. I really prepare for the trip. I buy 10 pieces. Through the years, *nag*-accumulate na. I also ask friends to give me bags and shoes for my birthday (May 28).

"I have three tips to give women who love collecting bags. No. 1: For beginners, buy basic colors. I first bought a lot of blacks, browns and beige. Later, if you want to buy some more, then you can get greens, blues, or pinks.

"Second tip concerns storage: Leather bags should be able to breathe. Don't wrap them too much or put all of them in one bag. Yeast develops.

"No. 3: You don't have to buy the really expensive kind. Think twice or thrice before buying expensive items, or save up for it.

"My newest pair of boots is from Coach. It's white, has fur and is knee-high. Of course, I can only wear this in winter. It's really comfortable, soft inside. My feet don't hurt. *Bongga siya*. Coach boots have good cushioning. My Gucci boots sometimes hurt. I bought them because of the matching belt bag, really cool. The Dior boots I bought only last January, in Hong Kong.

"I don't care much about rubber shoes. As long as they match my outfit, they're okay. Sometimes, I even feel that buying rubber shoes worth P5000 is extravagant. Funny, I pay P30,000 for a pair of leather shoes and feel every cent is worth it.

"I also have a lot of slippers—Steve Madden, Gap, Guess, American Eagle, Roxy and Tommy Hilfiger. But I also have slippers bought from flea markets."

BELTS

"I hardly wear belts, except for shows. *Gusto ko kasi* comfortable *ako*. Right now, I like wearing belts with fabrics similar to army belts."

BLAZERS

"I use blazers when I tape for 'Bubble Gang.' This is for my Belle Chongco character. My latest, the one from Mango, is made of wrinkled fabric. *Uso daw*. I buy most of them in Hong Kong."

BLOUSES AND DRESSES

"This apple green halter top from XY Shop is memorable. I wore this during a performance and my breasts almost popped out. It was good that the incident wasn't written about, and did not circulate via cell phones and e-mails.

"I really don't like tube dresses, but this pink asymmetrical dress fits me. *Pa*-girl. It doesn't hug the chest too much. *Bongga*. I got it in the States.

"This red halter dress has traveled with me everywhere. *Malaki na ang kinita*. It's comfy and not too tight in the chest.

"I also like this denim dress that I bought in Guam. Feeling *ko ang ganda ko*. I used to wear it a lot, with black shoes, but not anymore. Feeling *ko sasabog na ang dibdib ko*."

PERFUME

"Regine Velasquez gifted me with a set of Kenzo items last Christmas. But the scents I'm into right now are Florentine and Lanvin Eclat. I like Florentine because it smells like shampoo, while Lanvin Eclat smells like I've just come out of the shower.

"Honestly, I'm really not into perfumes. I prefer body wash. I don't even like using lotion. Normal *amoy lang ang gusto ko*. I use St. Michael's body wash with Water Lily scent.

SLEEPWEAR

"I own a lot of Victoria's Secret camisoles or lingerie. Sometimes I even wear them on evening dates or for shows. My camisoles are beaded.

"I also wear cotton pajamas and tops to bed. I have them in Superman prints. I don't really like Superman. I just like the color combination—blue, yellow and red."

JEANS

"I like low-waist or hipster jeans. I don't buy jeans that are not stretchable. I have a small waist but wide hips; stretch pants fit me well. My favorite brand is American Eagle. I like the soft fabric and the fit. When you buy jeans, its important to try them on."

ACCESSORIES

"I buy earrings and necklaces from Guess, Liz Claiborne, Bebe, Givenchy, J Lo and Wet Seal. When I buy accessories, *gusto ko kumikinang. Bongga at mukang sosyal*. I really save up for them."

"Tip: If you're not an *artista*, don't buy really expensive accessories. *Hindi naman malalaman ng iba*. You just have to know what looks good on you."

LOW-WAIST for her

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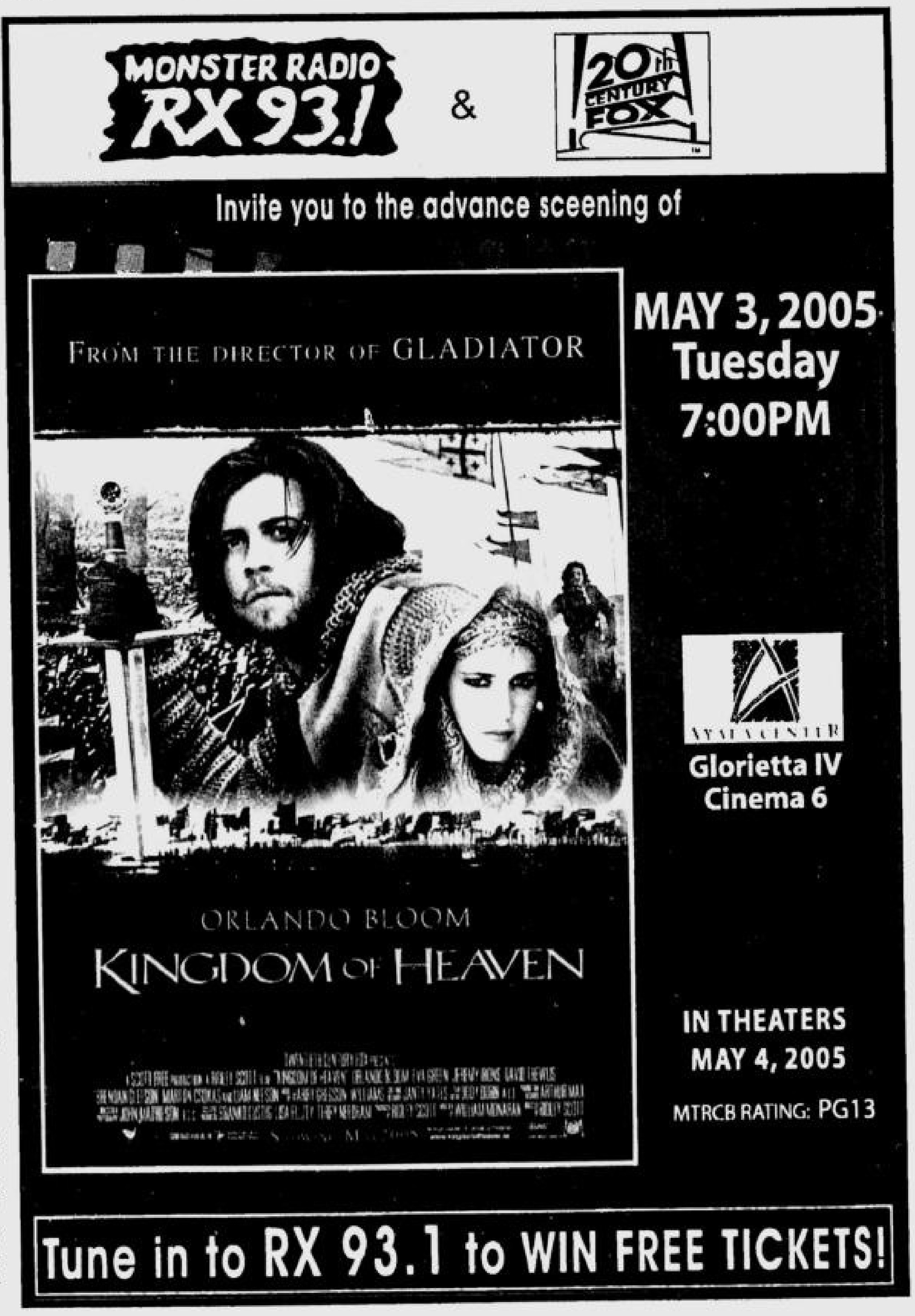
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Invite you to the advance sceening of
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ORLANDO BLOOM
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
MAY 3, 2005
Tuesday
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AYALA CENTER
Glorietta IV
Cinema 6
IN THEATERS
MAY 4, 2005
MTRCB RATING: PG13
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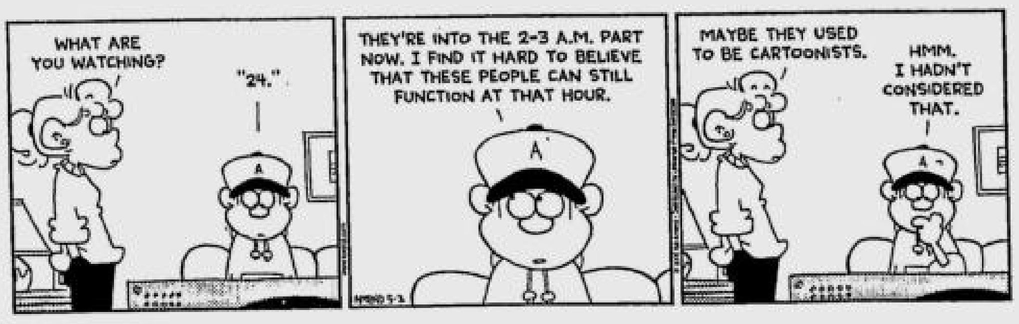
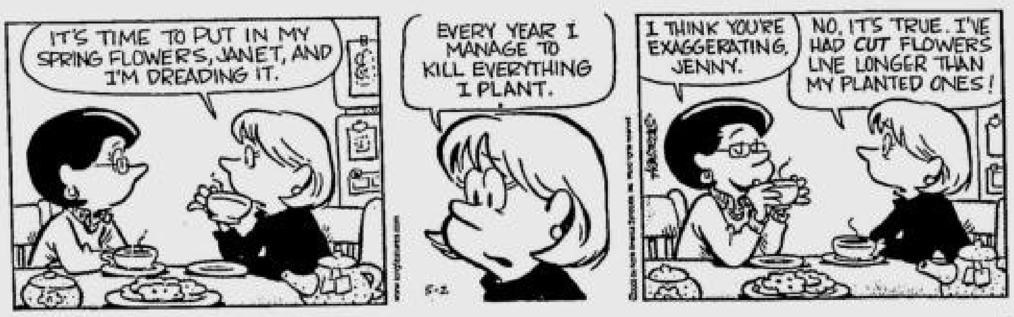
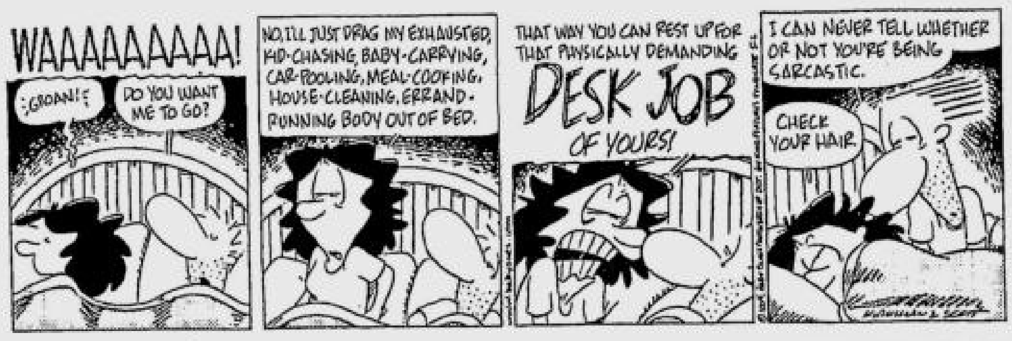
FOXTROT
BY BILL AMEND


WHAT ARE YOU WATCHING?
"24."
THEY'RE INTO THE 2-3 A.M. PART NOW. I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT THESE PEOPLE CAN STILL FUNCTION AT THAT HOUR.
MAYBE THEY USED TO BE CARTOONISTS.
HMM. I HADN'T CONSIDERED THAT.

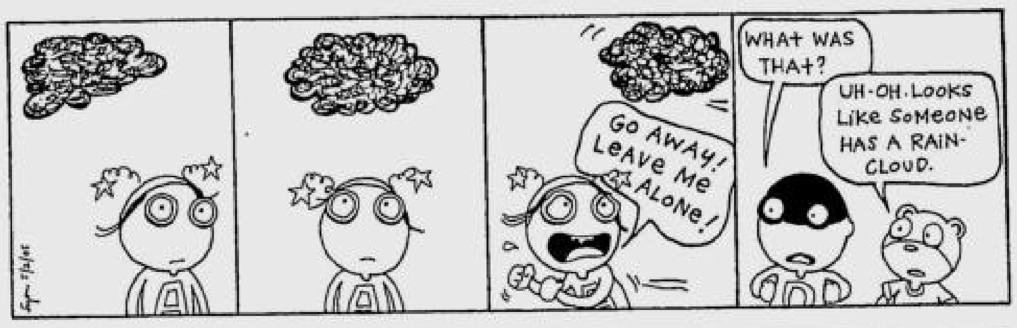
MARVIN
BY TOM ARMSTRONG


IT'S TIME TO PUT IN MY SPRING FLOWERS, JANET, AND I'M DREADING IT.
EVERY YEAR I MANAGE TO KILL EVERYTHING I PLANT.
I THINK YOU'RE EXAGGERATING, JENNY.
NO, IT'S TRUE. I'VE HAD CUT FLOWERS LIVE LONGER THAN MY PLANTED ONES!
5-2

BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


WAAAAAAAAAA!
:GROAN!:
DO YOU WANT ME TO GO?
NO, I'LL JUST DRAG MY EXHAUSTED, KID-CHASING, BABY-CARRYING, CAR-POOLING, MEAL-COOKING, HOUSE-CLEANING, ERRAND-RUNNING BODY OUT OF BED.
THAT WAY YOU CAN REST UP FOR THAT PHYSICALLY DEMANDING DESK JOB OF YOURS!
I CAN NEVER TELL WHETHER OR NOT YOU'RE BEING SARCASTIC.
CHECK YOUR HAIR.

ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO


GO AWAY! LEAVE ME ALONE!
WHAT WAS THAT?
UH-OH. LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE HAS A RAIN-CLOUD.

HOROSCOPE
BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are a perfectionist about whatever you pursue. You're interested in human psychology; and personally, becoming a better person. You want to know what is expected of you because you intend to deliver it. You enjoy hobbies and crafts. In the year ahead, certain things in your life will end to make room for new beginnings. Birthdate of: Elizabeth Berridge, actress; Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, actor; David Beckham, soccer player.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a good day for long-range planning connected with real estate, family businesses and your personal life. You might also want to buy something that will last long into the future.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): The reality of your relationships with others is important to you now. This is an excellent time to sit down with someone and arrive at an understanding of what you can expect from each other.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is a good day to deal with the government and large institutions. Whatever you do can certainly improve your earning power now and in the future.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Talk to someone older or more experienced than you today. You might get excellent advice. You don't have to reinvent the wheel. Just stand on the shoulders of those who went before you.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): VIPs respect you now. You can expect to get offers for long-term employment. You might also buy art objects for your workspace.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Plans for long-range travel look excellent now. Publishing plans are also beautifully favored. Many of your ideas meet with approval. (You're on a roll!)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You might finally receive something that has been due you for a long time. (Justice is finally done!) Personal relationships are solidified nicely now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You might be attracted to older people now. This could be romantic or just platonic. Either way, you see what you can learn from others now. (This is wise.)

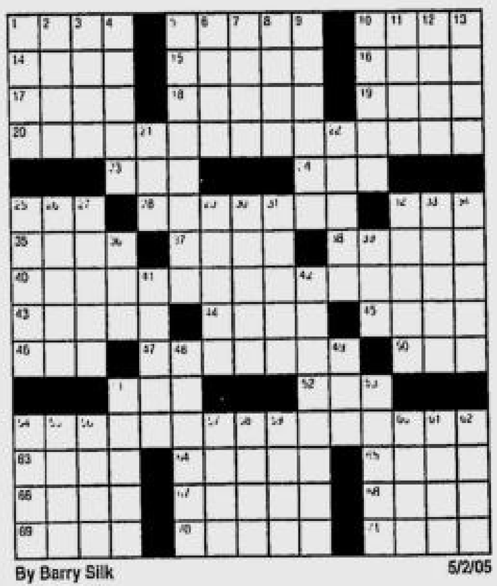
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a good day to make long-range plans for work. It's very fortunate for business affairs. It especially favors work related to art and things of beauty.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a good day for long-range financial planning and financial speculation. You can also establish solid ground rules in a romantic relationship.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is a good time for real estate deals. Similarly, it's a good day for family businesses. Whatever you do now will have long-term benefits and payoffs in the future.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You feel gratified to be able to be of service to others now. Group ideals are suddenly more important to you than your own.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Barry Silk
McLean, VA

5/2/05

ACROSS
1 Beehive State
5 Shuts with force
10 Loony in London
14 Reebok rival
15 Financial checkup
16 Perpetually
17 Gas or elec.
18 Camel's cousin
19 Dossier
20 Compact pet
23 Noon on a sundial
24 T-shirt size
25 Advanced deg.
28 Condemned
32 Our sun
35 Distinctive atmosphere
37 Something to bark?
38 Ex-QB of the Broncos
40 2000 Woody Allen movie
43 MacDill AFB site
44 Sleuth Wolfe
45 Hydrox rival
46 Two in nine?
47 Brutish
50 Pic blowup
51 Birth certificate datum
52 Scheduled to arrive
54 1962 Jimmy Dean hit
63 Lot measure
64 Green stuff
65 Folklore baddie
66 Zip along
67 Loses color
68 "Hud" star Patricia
69 Football positions
70 Follow a trail
71 Canine sound

DOWN
1 E pluribus ___
2 South American monkey
3 Related (to)
4 Spiral form
5 Superlatively pungent
6 Humdinger
7 Hebrew month
8 Silent performer
9 Paper fastener
10 Clear the windshield
11 Ardent
12 Plummeted
13 Ring bearer?
21 Lend a hand
22 Words to a waiter
25 Sticking stuff
26 What to err is
27 Fluid ounce fractions
29 Dishes
30 Country singer LeAnn
31 Stagnant
32 Took an oath
33 Like the old bucket of song
34 Disinfectant brand
36 Yodeler's peak
39 Old card game
41 Product sticker
42 Unsolved crime
48 Nonliable
49 That's disgusting!
51 Flower parts
53 Dark hardwood
54 Veg out
55 Desktop image
56 Put one's foot down?
57 Tusked animal
58 1970 Kinks hit
59 Actor Guinness
60 Curved molding
61 Spoken
62 Coarse seaweed

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

P	O	P	■	E	B	B	T	I	D	E	■	A	W	E
E	V	A	■	C	L	E	A	R	U	P	■	L	A	M
R	E	V	■	L	O	T	U	S	E	S	■	T	L	C
C	R	I	T	I	C	■	■	■	■	I	R	A	T	E
O	R	L	O	P	■	M	A	R	B	L	E	I	Z	E
L	A	I	R	S	■	O	B	E	R	O	N	■	■	■
A	T	O	N	L	■	D	E	P	E	N	D	L	N	I
T	E	N	■	■	P	I	T	O	N	■	■	Y	E	A
E	S	S	A	Y	I	S	T	S	■	C	R	E	W	S
■	■	■	S	E	T	T	E	E	■	H	O	L	S	T
F	O	R	E	S	T	E	R	S	■	O	H	A	R	E
U	R	I	A	H	■	■	■	■	W	I	E	S	E	L
N	O	V	■	I	S	L	A	M	I	C	■	H	E	E
D	N	A	■	V	I	O	L	A	T	E	■	E	L	S
S	O	L	■	A	R	T	L	E	S	S	■	S	S	S

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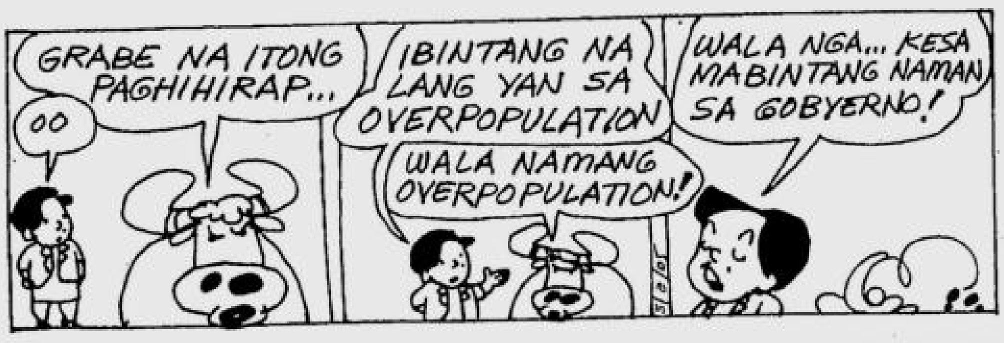
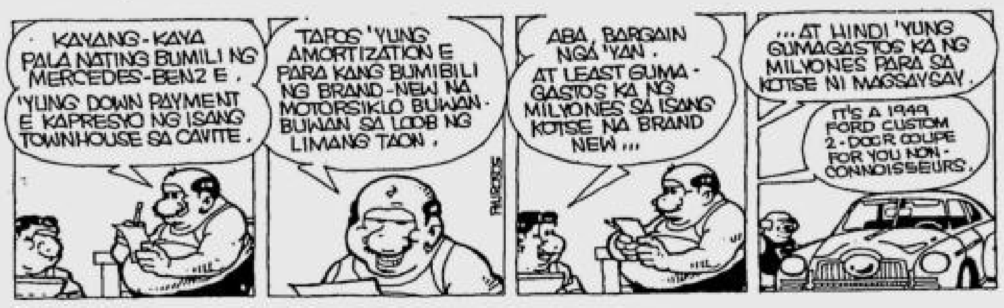
5/2/05

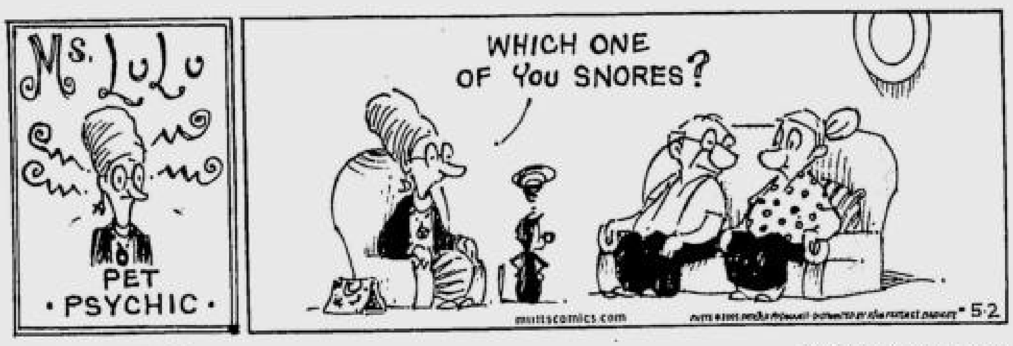
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


GRABE NA ITONG PAGHIHIRAP...
OO
IBINTANG NA LANG YAN SA OVERPOPULATION
WALA NAMANG OVERPOPULATION!
WALA NGA... KESA MABINTANG NAMAN SA GOBYERNO!
5/2/05

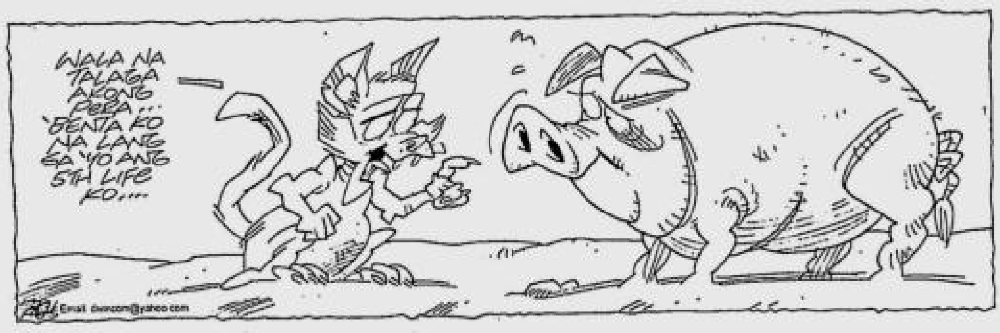
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


KAYANG-KAYA PALA NATING BUMILI NG MERCEDES-BENZ E. 'YUNG DOWN PAYMENT E KAPRESYO NG ISANG TOWNHOUSE SA CAVITE.
TAPOS 'YUNG AMORTIZATION E PARA KANG BUMIBILI NG BRAND-NEW NA MOTORSIKLO BUWAN-BUWAN SA LOOB NG LIMANG TAON.
ABA, BARGAIN NGA 'YAN. AT LEAST GUMA-GASTOS KA NG MILYONES SA ISANG KOTSE NA BRAND NEW...
...AT HINDI 'YUNG GUMAGASTOS KA NG MILYONES PARA SA KOTSE NI MAGSAYSAY.
IT'S A 1949 FORD CUSTOM 2-DOOR COUPE FOR YOU NON-CONNOISSEURS.

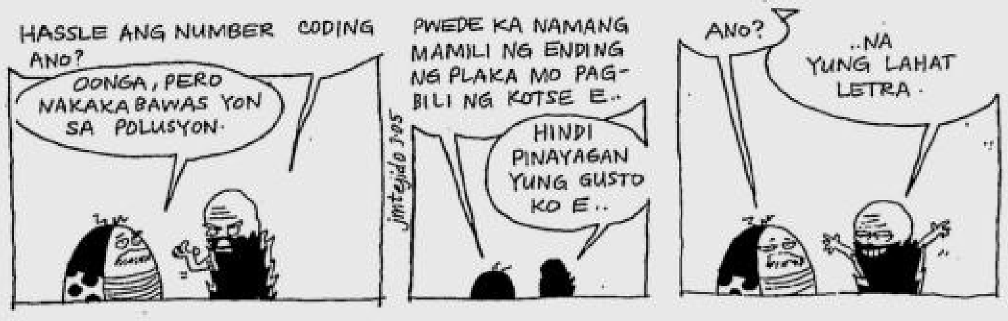
MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


Ms. LuLu
PET PSYCHIC
WHICH ONE OF YOU SNORES?
muttscomics.com
5·2

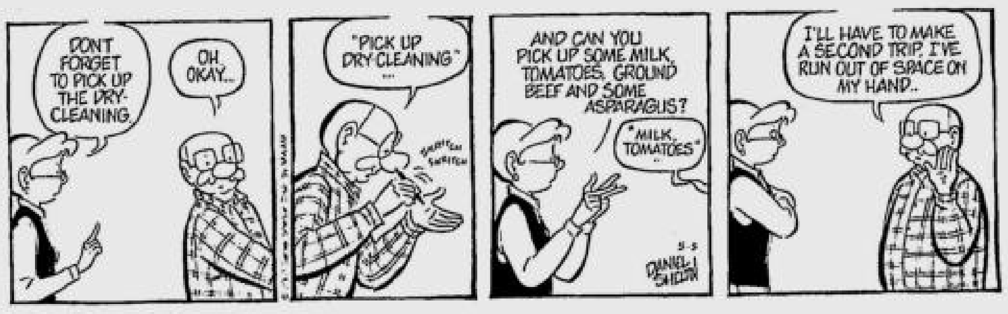
DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


WALA NA TALAGA AKONG PERA... 'BENTA KO NA LANG SA 'YO ANG 5TH LIFE KO....
Email: dvcom@yahoo.com

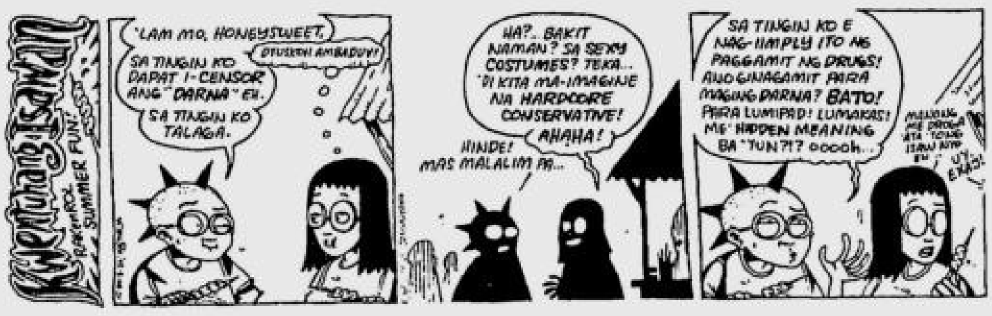
MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


HASSLE ANG NUMBER CODING ANO?
OONGA, PERO NAKAKABAWAS YON SA POLUSYON.
PWEDE KA NAMANG MAMILI NG ENDING NG PLAKA MO PAG-BILI NG KOTSE E..
HINDI PINAYAGAN YUNG GUSTO KO E..
ANO?
..NA YUNG LAHAT LETRA.

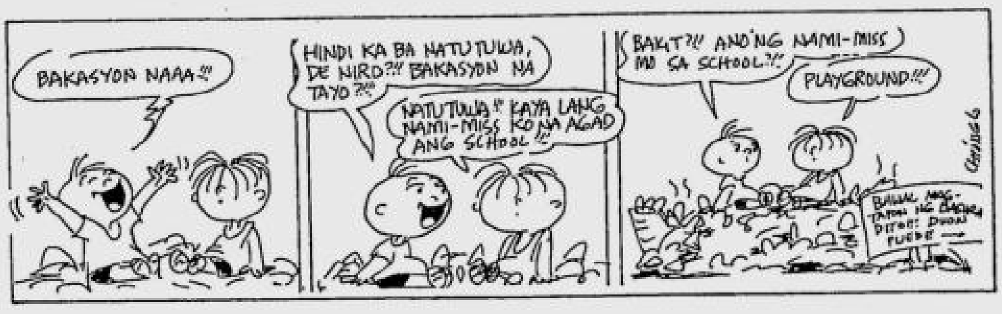
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


DON'T FORGET TO PICK UP THE DRY-CLEANING.
OH, OKAY...
"PICK UP DRY CLEANING"...
AND CAN YOU PICK UP SOME MILK, TOMATOES, GROUND BEEF AND SOME ASPARAGUS?
"MILK, TOMATOES"
I'LL HAVE TO MAKE A SECOND TRIP. I'VE RUN OUT OF SPACE ON MY HAND..

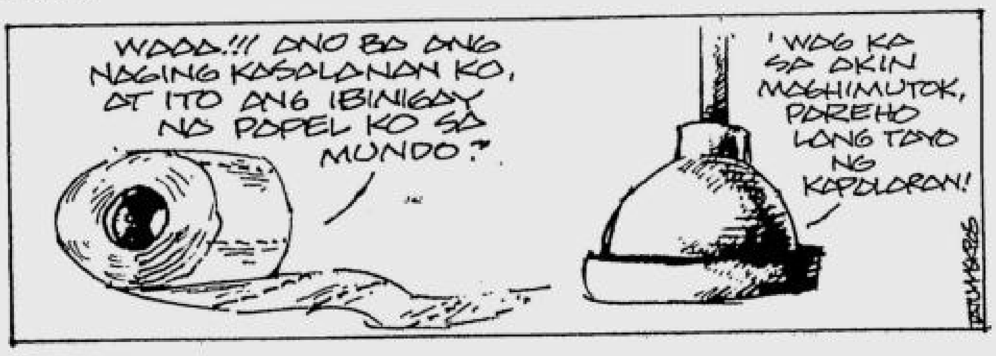
KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA


SUMMER FUN!
'LAM MO, HONEYSWEET,
SA TINGIN KO DAPAT I-CENSOR ANG "DARNA" EH.
SA TINGIN KO TALAGA.
HA?.. BAKIT NAMAN? SA SEXY COSTUMES? TEKA... 'DI KITA MA-IMAGINE NA HARDCORE CONSERVATIVE! AHAHA!
HINDE! MAS MALALIM PA...
SA TINGIN KO E NAG-IIMPLY ITO NG PAGGAMIT NG DRUGS! ANO GINAGAMIT PARA MAGING DARNA? BATO! PARA LUMIPAD! LUMAKAS! ME' HIDDEN MEANING BA 'TUN?!? ooooh...

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


BAKASYON NAAA!!!
HINDI KA BA NATUTUWA, DE NIRO?!! BAKASYON NA TAYO?!!
NATUTUWA!! KAYA LANG NAMI-MISS KO NA AGAD ANG SCHOOL!!
BAKIT?!! ANO'NG NAMI-MISS MO SA SCHOOL?!!
PLAYGROUND!!!
BAWAL MAG-TAPON NG BASURA DITO! DOON PUEDE

TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


WAAA!!! ANO BA ANG NAGING KASALANAN KO, AT ITO ANG IBINIGAY NA PAPEL KO SA MUNDO?
'WAG KA SA AKIN MAGHIMUTOK, PAREHO LANG TAYO NG KAPALARAN!

LVN forever

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

MY FIRST exposure to LVN studios was by way of its wonderful films, especially its scintillating Nida-Nestor starrers. We liked the veteran production company's movies for their generally more realistic bent.

We got our foot in LVN's doorway when our friend, **Monina Allarey-Mercado**, asked us to write a chapter for her book on the movie studio. We interviewed producer **Atty. Manny de Leon** about his mother, LVN founder and matriarch Doña Sisang (**Narcisa de Leon**).

That was a memorable interview, because Atty. De Leon was a great, insightful raconteur, full of little-known information that helped me get a good handle on what made the studio's movies unique.

One surprising recollection he offered was that, before she decided to produce films, his mother, Doña Sisang, had never seen a movie in her life! Now, how about that?

Later, when we started reviewing films and editing an arts and entertainment magazine, we got to know some LVN luminaries, and we really grew to like some of them, especially **Nida Blanca**, who became our friend.

When **Mike de Leon** started making films himself, we enthusiastically supported his productions because they were so clearly exceptional, and because we saw in them the new fruition of the De Leon family's high standards of professionalism, and love for filmmaking.

Alas, the time came when major film studios like LVN were confounded by the rise of independent production companies, and above all by the "bomba" film craze.

Unable to compete at such a low level, LVN stopped producing movies, but continued to serve the Filipino movie industry by sustaining its superior laboratory and post-production services for other producers.

Recently, however, after Atty. De Leon passed away, LVN announced that it was closing shop, the latest victim of the local movie industry's decade-long slump.

The threatened demise of an illustrious film institution bothered us so much that we tried to rally some Filipino film leaders to do something to stop or at least postpone it.

An industry leader got back to me and said that he was working on forming a consortium to take over the studio's post-production services. To date, however, I haven't gotten any concrete follow-up information on that laudable initiative, so I'm still waiting—and hoping.

Last Wednesday, Regal's Mother **Lily Monteverde** also weighed in with a plea to LVN management to keep the studio open. However, that can happen only if all of us go beyond well-intentioned appeals, and join forces—and funds!—to make the movie company viable and productive again.

Producers, film leaders and movie buffs who feel strongly about this should put their money where their mouths and hearts are, and unite to give the venerable Filipino film company that is LVN Pictures its richly-deserved second lease on cinematic life.

1939-1961
DOÑA NARCISA DE LEON
LVN PICTURE PRODUC

A BUST of the founder at the studios in Quezon City.

Sharon Cuneta, composer

MEGASTAR **Sharon Cuneta** sings her own composition, "Now That You're Gone," in her new album for Viva Records with the same title. The album includes Sharon's duets with well-known artists, like "Somewhere, Somehow" with **Gary Valenciano**, and "All I Ask of You" with **Jun Polistico**.

UK election coverage

FOR DAYS now, CNN has been providing updates on the United Kingdom's elections, leading up to full election night coverage on May 5. **Christine Amanpour**, **Robin Oakley** and **Richard Quest** will host an election results special live from London.

'Kingdom of Heaven'

ORLANDO **Bloom**'s new starrer, "Kingdom of Heaven," opens in Metro Manila on May 4. Bloom plays Balian, a humble French blacksmith who has just lost his wife and child. When a crusader, Godfrey of Ibelin (**Liam Neeson**) returns from the Holy Land, he turns out to be a key part of Balian's past—and future. **Ridley Scott** directs.

'Exorcist: The Beginning'

RENNY **Harlin**'s "Exorcist: The Beginning" is now on DVD and VCD. The prequel is set in Africa in 1941. Fr. Merrin (**Stellan Skarsgard**), his faith shattered by World War II, journeys to Africa to join an archeological dig that has uncovered a Byzantine church mysteriously untouched by time.

But an even greater mystery awaits: an ancient and horrific evil has been awakened, and a soul-shattering death spree begins. Can Merrin summon up the faith and courage to defeat humanity's oldest and most powerful foe?

AP

GOTTA KISS THE GIRL

Hollywood heartthrob Tom Cruise has a new girl, publicists revealed Thursday, as he bounces back from romances with Nicole Kidman and Penelope Cruz. The 42-year-old star is going out with actress Katie Holmes, 26. "Tom and Katie have been dating for a few weeks," Cruise's representative told Agence France Presse. The surprise match was uncovered when the pair was spotted Wednesday in Italy where Cruise is to be honored at the country's top film awards. Holmes is best known for her role on the TV teen drama "Dawson's Creek."

AFP

LI: Two months with acting coach

Jet Li, on being an actor at last

FIRST PERSON

I NOW understand about what it is to be an actor. In all my previous movies, I was just a martial arts character or a guy who can fight—never an actor. I had no acting lessons, I'd get on camera and do my thing.

Not that I didn't take those films seriously; I did.

But while doing "Unleashed," I remember coming to the set and seeing [my co-star] Morgan Freeman fumbling around like the blind man that he plays, really getting into it.

I thought, ah, this is acting—not just a performance on camera but still being in character when the camera is turned off and you're just walking around the set.

This is my most difficult film so far. For this character Danny (who has the mind of a child and is treated like a dog by his owner, trained only to fight), I spent two months before shooting with the acting coach. I'd study everyday in my house just figuring out this character—what he is thinking, how does he walk, how does he react to circumstances? The first time he hears music, what does he do?

I went to the dog pound to observe the dogs, how they act when they are hungry, angry or hurt. It was like learning a new martial art.

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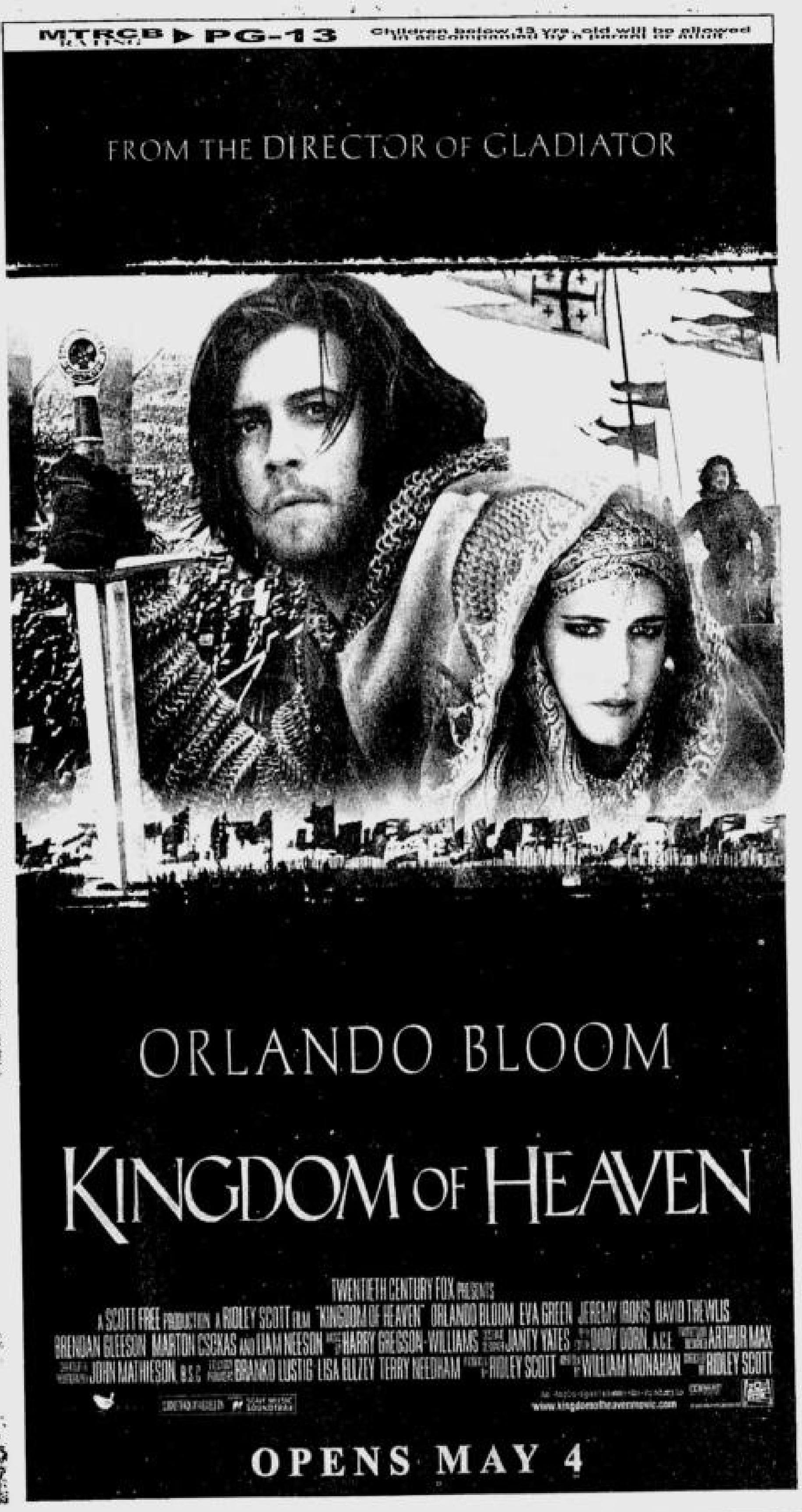
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

GUESS WHO PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:15	WEDDING DATE PG13 1:00,3:00	THE INTERPRETER PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15,7:45,10:20
CANTHIS BE LOVE GP 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40,10:00	XXX 2: THE NEXT LEVEL PG13 12:15,2:40,5:05,7:30,10:00	XXX 2:THE NEXT LEVEL PG13 12:50,3:15,5:40,8:05,10:30

2nd hand
3rd hand
4th hand
5th hand
6th hand
7th hand
8th hand
9th hand
items at
THE VINTAGE YARD SALE
DROP BY ON MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND.
MAY 7-8
POWER PLANT MALL



MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF GLADIATOR
ORLANDO BLOOM
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX PRESENTS
A SCOTT FREE PRODUCTION A RIDLEY SCOTT FILM "KINGDOM OF HEAVEN" ORLANDO BLOOM EVA GREEN JEREMY IRONS DAVID THEWLIS BRENDAN GLEESON MARTON CSOKAS AND LIAM NEESON MUSIC BY HARRY GREGSON-WILLIAMS COSTUME DESIGNER JANTY YATES EDITED BY DODY DORN, A.C.E. PRODUCTION DESIGNER ARTHUR MAX DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JOHN MATHIESON, B.S.C. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS BRANKO LUSTIG LISA ELLZEY TERRY NEEDHAM PRODUCED BY RIDLEY SCOTT WRITTEN BY WILLIAM MONAHAN DIRECTED BY RIDLEY SCOTT
www.kingdomofheavenmovie.com
OPENS MAY 4

DO YOU LIVE IN A HAUNTED HOUSE? FIND OUT ON MAY 11

BASED ON A TRUE STORY

ON November 13, 1973, police received a frantic phone call that led them to a nightmarish crime scene at the Defeo residence in Amityville, Long Island - an entire family had been murdered in their beds while they slept. The murderer, Ronald Defeo confessed to killing his parents and four siblings, saying "demonic spirits" in the house possessed him and drove him to the massacre.

One year later, the new house owners, George and Kathy Lutz and their children moved into the house thinking it would be their dream home.

What happened next inside this haunted house will shock you to no end.

28 days after moving in, the Lutzes abandoned the residence-lucky to escape with their lives. THIS IS THEIR TRUE STORY.

THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
The first fully documented case of demonic possession

ENTERTAINMENT

The stuff that dreamers are made of

THE FINALISTS from top left, Michael, Brenan, Charmaine, Kristel, MC, Jonalyn, Philbert and Shiela

By Kathryn L. Reyes

TEN months ago, they were mere contestants who hoped that joining "Pinoy Pop Superstar" would help make their dreams come true. Now, they are actual stars in the making, just a few days away from bagging the title that's is up for grabs for the first time.

On May 8, the eight finalists of GMA 7's singing competition face off in a grand showdown at the Araneta Coliseum.

Apart from an exclusive contract with GMA Records, the first "Pinoy Pop Superstar" grand champion will win P1 million in cash from Coca-Cola, a Futura Classic house and lot from Filinvest and a brand new Toyota Innova.

These prizes are only a bonus for the contestants at this point, whoever, since they all agree that their experience in the competition is priceless.

Prior to their very first TV appearance, the aspirants underwent image and personality enhancement to boost their confidence. With the help of choreographer Andrew Ferraris and stage director Freddie Santos, they were trained to project in front of the cameras. They were given voice lessons, makeovers and workshops by singer Sushi Reyes, designer Pepsi Herrera and makeup artist George Bantolino.

And unlike "American Idol" in the United States, where contenders are routinely criticized and humiliated, "Pinoy Pop Superstar" takes a more positive approach in helping the candidates improve. The judges include director Floy Quintos, arranger-composer Danny Tan and soul diva Jaya.

According to one of the contestants, Philbert de Torres, who joined "Canadian Idol" before "Pinoy Pop Superstar," it is a confidence boost that the judges in "Pinoy Pop Superstar" are positive.

"In 'Canadian Idol'—I have to be honest—I suffered a lot of stress."

He said "Canadian Idol" had its own version of AI's Simon Cowell. "His name is Zack," Philbert said. "All the other judges would speak well of my performance but Zack said I could only aspire to be a backup singer. I didn't know what he had against me... but it made me stronger."

Philbert, who is from Vancouver, was one of two contestants who won in the PPS' parallel searches in Canada and the United States. The other winner, Shiela Ferrari, is from Los Angeles.

The six local bets are Michael Garcia, seven-week champion; Kristel Astor, four weeks; Charmaine Piamonte, four; MC Monterola, four; Brenan Espartinez, five; and Jonalyn Viray, four.

This is the stuff that dreamers are made of.

Philbert de Torres

I started singing when I was 5. I was born in Batangas City and moved to Canada when I was 10. The very first contest that I joined here in the Philippines was the "Jollibee Bulilit Singing Contest." I won that one; I was 7. The second major contest I joined was in Canada, "YTV Vocal Spotlight," where I became regional champion. And the biggest before "Pinoy Pop Superstar" was the "Canadian Idol." I made it to the Top 30—not a bad finish, though I believe I could have done better. But I'm here now. Win or lose, I would really like to stay and pursue my dream.

Michael Garcia

I am the first finalist of "Pinoy Pop Superstar." I'm 18 years old, from Iligan City. I was in first year college, taking up Hotel and Restaurant Management, before I joined the contest—my first. I think I made it this far because singing is really in my heart. It's been really hard. Registration *pa lang*, I had to borrow money from my cousin because I had only P50. I was No. 661 on the list; I did not have allowance for food. From 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. that day, I survived on Maxx candy and ice water. That was my most unforgettable experience here in "Pinoy Pop Superstar." If I win, I will find a way to continue with my studies. Otherwise, maybe I will just go back to the province and study and maybe put up a business with my dad.

Kristel Astor

I didn't make it when I first auditioned for "Pinoy Pop Superstar." On my second try, I did. I started singing when I was 4 years old; that was when I became champion of "Pasikatan sa Trece." In 1995, I joined Channel 2's "Hataw ng Tanghalan." After that, Channel 7's "Birit Baby," then "Star for a Night" and "Search for a Star." When I won in "Star for a Night," I had a duet with Ms. Regine [Velasquez] and she really inspired me to keep trying. That's why I never got tired of joining singing contests and I will keep joining until I win. I'm really happy being a part of "Pinoy Pop Superstar." If I win, I will save the money for my future and my family. If I don't win, I will go back to school. After I graduate, I will join other singing contests.

Charmaine Piamonte

This is my first singing contest. My stint with "Pinoy Pop Superstar" is my most memorable experience. The six of us [local winners] bonded really well. I like my winning piece, "I Believe" by Fantasia Barrino, because of its message. I was in my senior year in high school when I won; and then I had to leave school. I want to go on with my studies after the contest. I'll wait for the results of the contest then I'll take it from there.

MC Monterola

I was in second year college at St. Benilde when I won. Like the others, I also had to quit school to concentrate on my singing. Before this, I joined "Search for a Star," where I made it to the semi-finals. "Pinoy Pop Superstar" has taught me a lot. I experienced the life of a singer on a professional level. We once went sleepless for days, training. It's tough but once I get onstage, I am revived. All of us, at this stage, are very happy. We may start feeling the pressure before the finals, but right now we're all just having fun.

Brenan Espartinez

"I am supposed to be a junior now in UST (University of Santo Tomas), where I am taking up Business Administration, but I had to stop so I could devote my time to the contest. At first, I did not want to join because I know it would affect my studies and time for my family. But my parents and friends encouraged me. I used to be with a singing group called "Kaya," and we used to sing in another station. This is my first real singing contest. I think I have an edge because I am more into R&B and I dance a bit. I feel so blessed to be here despite the pressure of training. I would never exchange [for anything] the bond that we contestants developed and the skills we acquired."

Jonalyn Viray

"I'm the youngest of the contestants. Prior to this, I joined "Teen Pop Star" on Channel 2, "Birit Bulilit" on Channel 13 and "Batang Vidaylin" on Channel 5. "Pinoy Pop Superstar" is my biggest break so far. We underwent rigid training, which helped me improve as a performer. Everything still seems like a dream to me. People say that my biggest advantage is that, despite being small, I have a big voice. After the competition, I will definitely go back to my studies. I cannot afford to skip another school year."

CHOOSE YOUR ADVENTURE
FIRE ADVENTURE TRIPS
ICE ADVENTURE TRIPS
Taal Catamaran Sailing & Trekking
Sorsogon Mountain & Lake Tour
Mt. Pinatubo Trekking & Ultralight Flying
Sagada Highland Exploring
Chico River Whitewater Rafting & Spelunking
Bohol Island-Hopping
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<gender (M or F)>
ON
to
2966

REGISTRATION

1. Promo is open to participants who are from 16 to 65 years of age.
2. Buy any of the following Pepsi variants with promo codes:
   - Pepsi Fire and Ice (500mL and 1.5L PET plastic bottles)
   - Pepsi and Pepsi Twist (Cans, 500mL and 1.5L PET plastic bottles)
   - Diet Pepsi and Diet Pepsi Twist (Cans)
   - Pepsi X (Cans and 500mL PET plastic bottles)

   Promo codes are printed under the can and on the 1.5L and 500mL PET plastic bottle labels. Pepsi cans and labels with promo codes must be kept as these will have to be presented by the winner in claiming his/her prize. Otherwise, the prizes shall be forfeited.
3. To join, text **PEPSI REG**, the desired adventure trip (**FIRE** for Fire adventures or **ICE** for Ice adventures), promo code, name, address, date of birth, gender and **ON** to 2966 using the following format:

   PEPSI REG <adventure trip (FIRE or ICE)> <promo code> <complete name> <complete address> <birthdate (MMDDYY)> <gender (M or F)> ON

   Example: PEPSI REG FIRE FA123456 AMY SANTOS 275 SHAW BLVD., PASIG CITY 111882 F ON
4. A registered promo code found in any Pepsi variant in 500mL PET plastic bottle or can is equivalent to one (1) raffle entry. A registered promo code found in any Pepsi variant in 1.5L PET plastic bottle is equivalent to two (2) raffle entries.
5. Participants can only enter each promo code once. When the first entry has been registered, the mobile number used in registration will be automatically locked to the registered name.
6. For all subsequent entries, just text the following format and send to 2966:

   PEPSI <adventure trip (FIRE or ICE)> <promo code>

   Example: PEPSI ICE MB123457
7. For Smart, Addict Mobile and Talk 'N Text subscribers, each successful text costs P2.50. For Globe and Touch Mobile subscribers, each successful text costs P2.50. For Sun Cellular subscribers, each successful text costs P2.00.
8. A confirmation message shall be sent after each entry has been registered. The confirmation message will include the participant's total number of registered entries and the date when these entries will be drawn. If a participant does not receive a confirmation message, his/her entry has not been duly registered.

RAFFLE DRAWS

9. Entries must be in on or before 12 midnight of the last day of the period covered. Late entries will be included in the next draw.

PERIOD COVERED (12:01AM - 12:00MN, 2005)	DRAWING OF ENTRIES WITH BFAD (2005)
April 25 - May 19	May 20
May 20 - May 26	May 27
May 27 - June 2	June 3
June 3 - June 9	June 10
June 10 - June 16	June 17
June 17 - June 23	June 24
June 24 - June 30	July 1
July 1 - July 7	July 8
July 8 - July 14	July 15
July 15 - July 21	July 22
July 22 - July 28	July 29
July 29 - August 4	August 5

10. All winners will be drawn electronically via randomizer for the weekly draws. There will be separate draws for FIRE and ICE entries.
11. Each draw will be held in the presence of a BFAD representative at Buy 'N Text Corporation, 2nd floor J.S. Gaisano Bldg., Shaw Blvd., Pasig City.
12. Participants should send in new entries every week to be qualified for each weekly draw. Non-winning weekly entries will no longer be included in the succeeding draws.
13. No participant is allowed to win the same adventure trip more than once.
14. There will be 12 weekly draws with six (6) winners per draw. Each week, three (3) winners will be sent to a FIRE adventure trip and three (3) winners will be sent to an ICE adventure trip. Each winner can bring two (2) of his/her friends.

    Example: Week 1
    (Draw Date: May 20, 2005)
    FIRE Adventure Trip:
    Taal Catamaran Sailing and Trekking (1st Winner + 2 friends) + (2nd Winner + 2 friends) + (3rd Winner + 2 friends) = 9 FIRE adventurers
    ICE Adventure Trip: Sagada Highland Exploring (1st Winner + 2 friends) + (2nd Winner + 2 friends) + (3rd Winner + 2 friends) = 9 ICE adventurers

PRIZES

15. Weekly adventure packages consist of:
    - Barkada package (winner + 2 friends)
    - Three (3) days, two (2) nights accommodation
    - Different indoor and outdoor adventure packages
    - Guided tours
    - Travel insurance
16. Weekly Fire and Ice adventure trips are as follows:

FIRE ADVENTURE TRIPS	ICE ADVENTURE TRIPS
1. Taal Catamaran Sailing and Trekking - Sailing - Kayaking - Taal trekking	1. Sagada Highland Exploring - Mountain-climbing - Terraces trekking - Spelunking
2. Sorsogon Mountain and Lake Tour - Firefly-watching in bancas - Bulusan mountain lake trekking - Spelunking	2. Chico River Whitewater Rafting and Spelunking - Whitewater kayaking and rafting - Caving - Rappelling
3. Mt. Pinatubo Trekking and Ultralight Flying - Ultralight flying - 4X4 Jeep fun races - Pinatubo trekking	3. Bohol Island-Hopping - Island-hopping - Snorkeling - River trekking

17. All winners and trip participants below 18 years of age will only be allowed to join the trips provided both of their parents or a legal guardian sign/s a duly notarized waiver and authorization/parental consent form.
18. All winners and trip participants must comply with the pre-qualification requirements for the promotion:
    - Birth certificate
    - Duly notarized signed waiver form
    - Duly notarized authorization/parental consent form for all participants below 18 years of age
    - Duly notarized medical certificate and/or health form
    - Insurance requirements (full name, full address, birthdate, two (2) beneficiaries and relation to them)
19. Prizes are transferable but not convertible to cash. Should the prize be transferred, the proxy winner must comply with the pre-qualification requirements on item 18.

CLAIMING

20. Winners will be notified by a Buy 'N Text representative via mobile phone call to coordinate verification details.
21. Verification of winners will be done two (2) to three (3) working days after each draw.
22. During verification, winners are required to present the following:
    - Pepsi can or label with the duly registered winning promo code
    - Birth certificate
    - Two (2) valid IDs (i.e., driver's license, passport, SSS or company ID)
    - SIM card, which was used in registration (In case of lost SIM card, an Affidavit of Loss and a recent valid ID with both picture and signature of the winner shall be presented.)
23. All winners who are below 18 years of age need to be with their parent/legal guardian during verification. The latter should present proof that he/she is the parent/legal guardian of the minor and two (2) valid ID's.
24. A confirmation letter shall be given to the winner during verification if he/she completes all requirements.
25. Each winner will be sent to the scheduled FIRE or ICE trip. Failure to join the scheduled trips forfeits his/her prize.

    Note: Schedules of trips are determined by the outfitter based on feasibility of each adventure on a given period. Trip schedules are final and non-negotiable.

WINNERS (PER DRAW DATE)	DATE OF TRIP	FIRE ADVENTURE TRIP	ICE ADVENTURE TRIP
May 20	July 1 - 3	Taal	Sagada
May 27	July 8 - 10	Taal	Sagada
June 3	July 15 - 17	Taal	Sagada
June 10	July 22 - 24	Taal	Sagada
June 17	July 29 - 31	Sorsogon	Chico River
June 24	Aug. 5 - 7	Sorsogon	Chico River
July 1	Aug. 12 - 14	Sorsogon	Chico River
July 8	Aug. 19 - 21	Sorsogon	Chico River
July 15	Aug. 26 - 28	Mt. Pinatubo	Bohol
July 22	Sept. 2 - 4	Mt. Pinatubo	Bohol
July 29	Sept. 9 - 11	Mt. Pinatubo	Bohol
August 5	Sept. 16 - 18	Mt. Pinatubo	Bohol

26. To ensure the safety of all the participants, the outfitter shall assess the winners and the trip participants' capacity to join any adventure activity. The outfitter reserves the right to decide whether a participant is fit to join a specific activity or not.
27. Scheduled trips/activities may be postponed, cancelled or modified due to circumstances beyond reasonable control such as acts of God, weather conditions, security risks and calamities.
28. The outfitter, with the consent of a Pepsi representative, shall reschedule the postponed/cancelled trips. New trip schedules are final and non-negotiable.

CUSTOMER CARE HOTLINE

29. Participants may call the following Pepsi hotline numbers for inquiries on the promo:

    Customer Service Hotlines for Metro Manila (Mon-Fri, 9AM-6PM)
    - 02 631-3087 • 02 637-4647

    Local Customer Service Hotlines (Mon-Fri, 9AM-6PM)
    - Bacolod - 034 707-6776/034 434-5903
    - Batangas - 043 312-4586
    - Cagayan de Oro - 088 858-4210
    - Cebu - 032 233-1045
    - Davao - 082 227-3936/082 225-1628
    - Iloilo - 033 336-6435
    - Laguna - 049 562-8577
    - Legaspi - 052 820-0608/ 052 820-0867
    - Naga - 054 361-2594
    - Nueva Ecija - 044 600-3908
    - Pampanga - 049 963-7451
    - Pangasinan - 075 515-6319
    - Tacloban - 053 325-3590
    - Zamboanga - 062 984-1246
30. Participants can also text any of the following keywords to 2966 for inquiries:

    PEPSI ON (to get weekly updates on the number of Pepsi entries; schedule of draw dates and list of winners)
    PEPSI ENTRIES (to inquire about the number of raffle entries for the day and the week)
    PEPSI DRAWS (to inquire about the schedule of draws)
    PEPSI WINNERS (to inquire about the winners)
    PEPSI (to inquire about the promo)
31. All employees of Pepsi-Cola Products Philippines, Inc., PepsiCo International, PBI, Y&R, Buy 'N Text, Adventures & Expeditions Philippines, Inc., BBDO, Smart Communications, Inc., Globe Telecommunications, Inc., Sun Cellular and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity and affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.
32. Decisions made by Y&R and BNT are subject to PCPPI's approval. All decisions of Pepsi-Cola Products Philippines, Inc. in concurrence with DOH-BFAD, are deemed final.
33. All prizes are tax-free.
34. Promo period is from April 25 to August 4, 2005.

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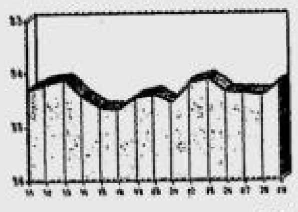
Gov't trains guns on revenue agencies

DOF ups corruption quota, to charge erring BIR, BOC workers every 2 weeks

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



₱ 54.16 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., April 29, 2005

¥ 105.87 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., April 28, 2005

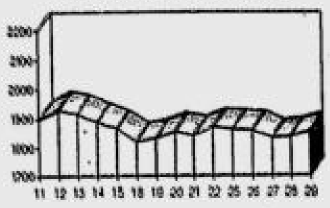
GOLD: $ 432.80-433.30

per ounce Hong Kong,April 29, 2005

STOCK MARKET

Bargain hunting seen to boost market

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



SHARE prices may get a good lift this week as stocks touch bargain levels, analysts said.

Financial markets are, however, closed today for a special holiday. Trading will resume on Tuesday.

"We may even see a rally," Eagle Equities Inc. president Joey Roxas said.

Roxas said the only factor that might dampen the market's mood would still be the delay in the passage of the modified value added tax reform measure, which was proposed by the Arroyo administration to wipe out the country's budget deficit in the next five years.

The Senate kept its version to maintain the 10-percent VAT rate and raise the corporate income tax to 35 percent, from 32 percent, causing a stalemate at the bicameral conference committee.

"The VAT has to pass the House version. If it is the Senate's, it may not sit well with the market," Roxas said.

The Lower House version favors a proposed increase of the VAT rate to 12 percent from 10 percent.

Investors were reportedly worried over possible Labor Day rallies but the market's slight increase on Friday belied these reported fears, analysts also said.

With the market still undecided over the fate of major tax reform

BARGAIN/ B4

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance will launch this month a massive anti-corruption campaign, pressing charges every two weeks against erring employees or officials of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the Bureau of Customs, and other agencies under the DOF.

The campaign will complement the government's ongoing crackdown on tax evaders, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima announced last week.

"This will prove the government's serious efforts to address problems resulting in lost revenues," Purisima said in a briefing last week.

The program of regularly filing corruption charges against government officials comes on the heels of the ongoing Run After Tax Evaders (RATE) program of the DOF and the BIR. Under the RATE program, the government agencies have focused on celebrities and known personalities in the business sector suspected of tax evasion.

The officials are going after high-profile personalities to let the public know that evading taxes is a crime and no one is above the law.

Actor Richard Gomez and singer Regine Velasquez are among those charged with tax evasion under the RATE program.

Charges were also filed against television host and INQUIRER columnist Cristina Aboitiz-Juan, basketball star Asi Taulava, celebrity doctor Joel Cortez Mendez, and former military comptroller Carlos Garcia and his wife.

After launching the anti-corruption program, the DOF will begin cracking down on suspected smugglers, filing charges against them also on a regular basis, Purisima said.

"Once (newly appointed) Commissioner (Alberto) Lina has familiarized himself with the operations of Customs, we will run a similar program against smugglers," he said.

In coming out with the campaigns, the government is showing it is dead set on putting its fiscal house in order.

The government's weak revenue collection, which is blamed for the country's fiscal woes, often has been attributed to smuggling, government corruption and the culture of tax evasion pervading in the private sector.

The government has estimated it is losing roughly P200 billion in potential revenues every year due to smuggling.

Purisima earlier said the government needs to improve its revenue collection to 16 percent of the country's gross domestic product to be able to be at par with the revenue collection performance of neighboring countries like Malaysia. Currently, the Philippine government's revenue-to-GDP ratio only stands at 13.5 percent.

Aside from improving revenue generation, the Arroyo administration is also pushing for several legislative measures that are seen to improve the government's fiscal standing.

Once the administrative and legislative measures are in place, the DOF hopes to collect P128 billion in additional revenues a year.

Lower than expected 5% growth seen in '05

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE economy will grow by only 5 percent or much lower than the government's target this year, while inflation may average at a much higher rate of 7.5 percent, based on the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' latest survey.

The BSP's latest quarterly economic survey, culled from 13 reputable institutions with domestic interests, indicated a growing doubt that the government could meet its 5.3-6.3 percent gross domestic product (GDP) target for this year.

"The moderate growth was attributed to the slower agricultural output due to the El Niño (dryspell) phenomenon, reduced economic activity resulting from higher energy and transport prices, and investors' concerns over the uncertainty [in] the enactment and implementation of the government revenue measures," the BSP said in a report released Friday.

The same survey showed a higher than expected inflation rate, even exceeding the latest BSP forecast of 7-7.3 percent.

The BSP earlier conceded that the 5-6 percent official target range for the year would be breached.

"Analysts attribute the upward adjustments in inflation forecasts for the year to the unimpeded rise in world oil prices," the report said. "Expectations of further hikes in US federal funds target rate in the coming months, as well as the rise in food prices owing to the El Niño weather disturbance across Southeast Asia, may add some pressures on price trends for the year."

The same survey indicated that by next year, domestic growth would hit only 5.2 percent, falling short of the government's 6.3-7.3 target.

While average inflation rate is seen to slow down to 6.7 percent by 2006 based on the same survey, this will still overshoot the government's official target of 4-5 percent. The new inflation outlook was also higher than the 6.3 percent consensus in the BSP's previous quarterly survey.

The survey collated official forecasts of the following private institutions: ATR Kim Eng Securities, Banco De Oro Universal Bank, Bank of the Philippine Islands, Citibank, Credit Lyonnais SA, Deutsche Bank, Development Bank of Singapore, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., Multinational Investment, Nomura Securities, UBS Warburg, University of Asia & the Pacific and Wallace Business Forum.

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Healthy lifestyle provides better life for Mindanao farmers

(2nd of 2 parts)

MINDANAWORLD

Joji Ilagan-Bian

NORTHERN Mindanao has 60,000 hectares of land devoted to vegetable production in Bukidnon, Misamis Oriental provinces.

These two regions grow similar semi-temperate vegetables like carrots, broccoli, potatoes, bell peppers, lettuce, tomatoes, cauliflower and pechay.

Last year, Mindanao shipped more than 25 metric tons of vegetables, valued at P299 Million from the major producing vegetable regions of North and South Mindanao.

Northern Mindanao lettuce growers are profiting from consolidation.

By clustering with other members, they are meeting the demands of Manila's institutional markets.

Each week, they ship 3.5 to 5 MT of leafy greens.

Private seed companies, input suppliers, service suppliers, and logistics companies also participate in the various initiatives of these producer groups, like in techno-demo of improved varieties and inputs and in trials of new facilities.

Their cooperation in finding more efficient and effective ways of doing things proves to be valuable to the overall industry.

Support from GEM Program

Some donor-funded programs support the development of a competitive Mindanao vegetable industry.

The USAID-funded Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program attempts to bring about the widespread expansion of production and marketing of a number of commodities, which offer exceptional potential for increasing the incomes of a large number of marginal farmers. This strategy aims to accelerate economic growth throughout Mindanao, and ensure that people have the opportunity to participate in, and benefit from, the economic growth.

Cold chain

The GEM Program helped introduce the "Cold Chain" to the vegetable industry players.

"Cold Chain" refers to a series of critical steps and processes that food and other perishable products must pass through to ensure that the vegetables retain their high quality when they reach the end-users.

It is comprised of facilities, equipment and practices that effectively control respiration, transpiration, enzymatic actions and chemical reactions within a crop to prevent deterioration and prolong the vegetables' shelf life.

An analysis of the economics of the "cold chain" shows that it is particularly beneficial to high value vegetables that are grown in the highlands of Mindanao.

These vegetables cater particularly to quality-conscious, high-end markets, such as supermarkets, hotels, restaurants and fastfood chains in Visayas and Luzon.

The "cold chain" is also necessary in shipping fresh fruits and vegetables to distant export markets, such as China, Hong Kong, Japan and others.

Northern Mindanao vegetable producers now use packing houses, reefer trucks from farm to consolidation area.

One can see the many chillers and reefer vans in the cold storage facility of MinCool in Cagayan de Oro City , ready to deliver the fresh produce to Metro Manila.

It is also interesting to note that even in far away Zamboanga City , the local government invested in a cold storage facility for fresh fruits and vegetables, which will be operational soon.

Corporate farms also have installed pre-cooling facilities on-farm and at their packing houses to support these farmers.

The Department of Agriculture's Secretary Arthur Yap, through the Bureau of Post-Harvest Research & Extension, the Bureau of Agricultural Research, the High Value Commercial Crops Division, the Agribusiness Marketing Assistance Division and the Regional Field Units, has been doing his share in assisting the Mindanao vegetable industry.

The DA has approved the Southern Philippines Vegetable Industry Road Map which is used as a basis for its assistance.

Technical research

In Regions 11 and 12, the University of the Philippines in Mindanao provides technical and market research on the vegetable industry.

Results of their studies are presented to the industry stakeholders as inputs to advocacy.

Studies on soil management, supply chain and consumer preferences proved valuable to producers and local government units.

The Department of Trade and Industry introduced the clustering approach to allow small farm holders to compete in better markets.

Under the One-Town-One-Product development strategy currently being pursued by the DTI, some municipalities in Bukidnon have chosen to make vegetables as their "one product." The local government units like Impasugong and Manolo Fortich in Bukidnon, Sugbongcogon in Misamis Oriental, and Kapatagan in Digos City, Davao del Sur, have been pro-active in their support to the local vegetable farmers by accessing new technologies, infrastructure facilities and resources.

The Road Ahead

While we have been seeing collaborative efforts among private sector and government, much needs to be done to further develop the industry and benefit as many farmers as possible.

Vegetable producers in Mindanao still have to hurdle business challenges.

How to reduce transportation/shipping costs; how to consistently keep the produce as fresh as possible when it reaches the markets; access to current and reliable market information; the capacity to face the global challenges especially on food safety; and how to increase the Philippine per capita consumption of vegetables, are just some of those that need to be addressed.

It is heartening to note, though, that the vegetable industry leaders recognize these challenges and are moving together in the right direction.

And with more people incorporating vegetables in their daily diet, we can now see the Mindanao farmers and their families smiling all the way!

(Joji Ilagan Bian is a strong advocate for Mindanao; Member, Export Development Council and former Chair of the Mindanao Business Council. Vice Chair of the Mindanao Commission of Women; Chair of the Mindanao TVET. E-mail comments to jojibian2@yahoo.com)

PPA extends ICTSI contract

By Abigail L. Ho

THE PHILIPPINE Ports Authority has extended by 25 years the contract of International Container Terminal Services Inc. to operate the Manila International Container Terminal.

PPA general manager Oscar Sevilla said in an interview that the agreement to extend the contract was now in the Office of the President for approval.

ICTSI's existing contract is scheduled to lapse in 2013.

The cargo-handling giant, however, has lobbied to have its contract extended for another 25 years, committing to invest more in the international port.

"They have been religious in fulfilling their commitments, and they have also committed to infuse additional investments," Sevilla told reporters.

The new 25-year contract will cover the remaining eight years of ICTSI's existing contract, and will be in effect until 2030.

Under the new contract, ICTSI will be pouring huge investments into the MICT in the next four years to further improve operations.

The port operator will also shoulder the cost of the dredging operations of the PPA.

The costs entailed in extending the current berthing area in the MICT will likewise be for ICTSI's account.

Sevilla said ICTSI had also agreed to remit higher fees to the PPA.

The bulk of the PPA's revenues comes from fees paid by ICTSI and Asian Terminals Inc., the operator of the South Harbor in Manila.

For the two firms, the PPA recently hiked rates for containerized and non-containerized cargoes by 22 percent and 20 percent, respectively.

Cirio shelves plan to sell Del Monte stake

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

ITALIAN food maker Cirio Finanziara S.p.A. has shelved plans to sell its 40-percent stake in Singapore-listed pineapple manufacturer Del Monte Pacific Ltd. (DMPL).

This came in the wake of the decision of Filipino-Chinese magnate Lucio Tan to drop plans to acquire Cirio's stake in DMPL.

In a statement to the Stock Exchange of Singapore, the commissioners of Cirio said that Basic Holdings, the private holding firm of Tan has "elected not to implement its offer" to buy Cirio's stake.

"The Commissioners wish to announce that the disposal process has been discontinued," Cirio said in a statement to the Singapore bourse.

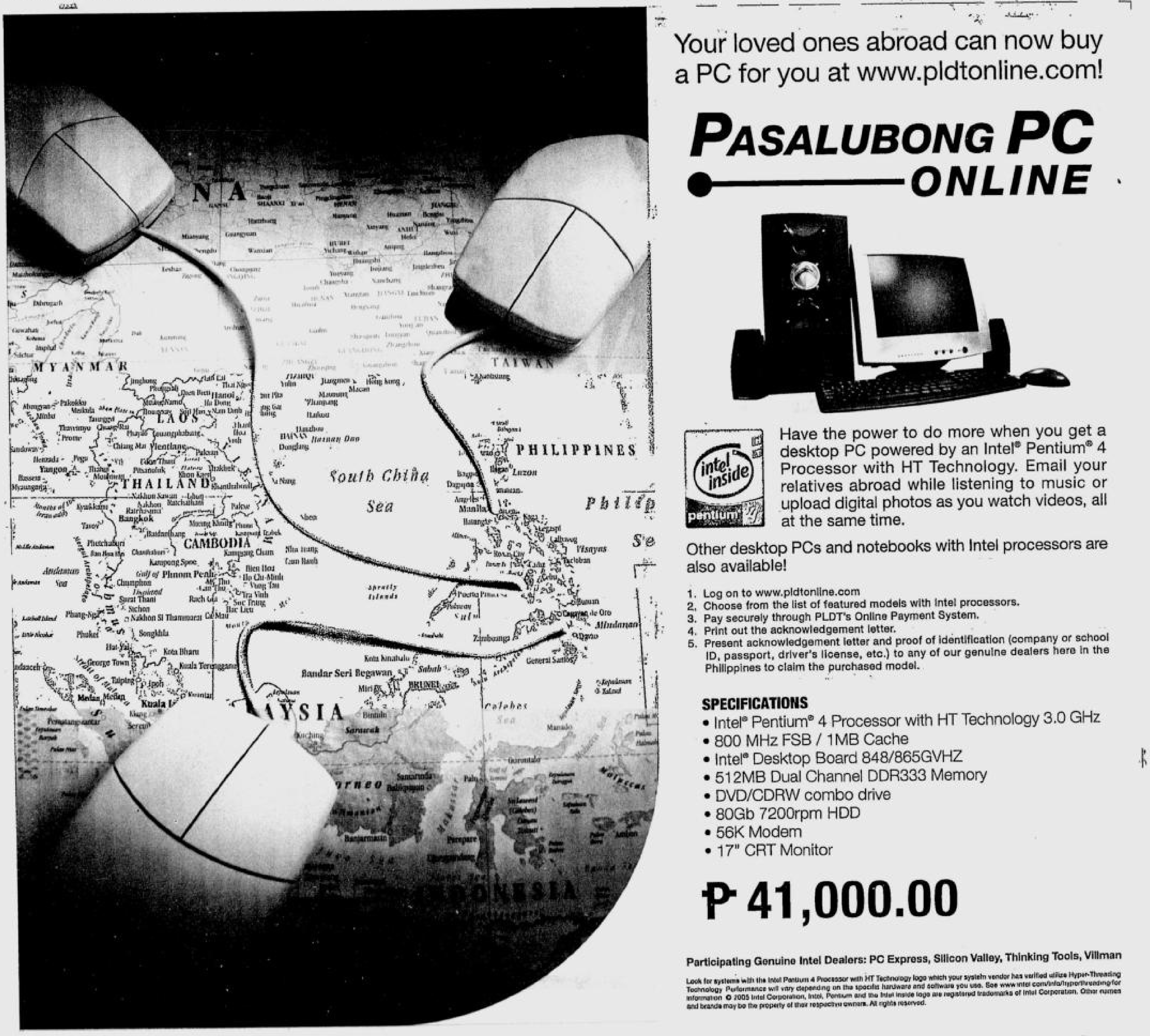
In November last year, Basic Holdings filed its offer to buy Cirio's shares in DMPL.

The commissioners accepted Basic's offer since they considered the price "adequate."

Basic, however, decided not to push through with its plan.

A source from Basic Holdings did not explain the basis for the decision, merely saying that "they (Del Monte) were still on the talking stage."

It was reported that Tan's Basic Holdings put in the highest offer of between $180 to $200 million for Cirio's stake.



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Malacañang goes to Makati

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

HAD the Oakwood mutineers instead struck at the Shangri-La Makati Friday night, not only would the soldiers have the government and the business elite in the palm of their hands, they would even have crates of Chateau Margaux 1990—a very good year, indeed—to wash down the generous buffet spread out for the VIPs.

Friday's big event celebrated the 25th year of Villaraza and Angangco law firm, and the guest list, especially from the judiciary, would have made The Firm's chief basher, Cory spokesperson now Erap counsel Rene A.V. Saguisag, all the more apoplectic.

Still, the former senator would have been deprived of his bone, for Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, The Firm's chief client, chose not to attract any more barking dogs on this May Day weekend, sending instead on her behalf the katzenjammer duo, husband Jose Miguel and his brother Ignacio.

(To be technical about it, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye stood as the President's official representative.)

Further proof that The Firm's founding partner F. Arthur Villaraza and the Arroyos are this close is that all the GMA children, save for the increasingly controversial congressman, were all present.

Like fame and the elusive fortune, Villaraza met Jose Miguel Arroyo quite by accident. Carpio Villaraza and Cruz, The Firm's founding shingle, had just been up for two months at the APMC building in Legaspi Village's Amorsolo Street when the building burned down.

Desperate for a new home, Villaraza walked around the neighborhood and found a newly built office-condominium, in what was then a quiet side street of Legaspi Village, good enough for the fledgling law firm's five founding partners. That building was the LTA, and, as Villaraza later recounted, Carpio Villaraza and Cruz became the first tenant, courtesy of a loan from Philamlife.

Now, 25 years and 200 employees later, The Firm owns three of the nine floors; and leases another two from the Ayalas' Bank of the Philippine Islands, while the First Gentleman has been reduced to two.

A journalistic shorthand to explain the phenomenal rise of The Firm is, like ACCRA of the Marcos era, Carpio Villaraza and Cruz—competent, focused and driven, no doubt—were able to bet on the right political horses and subsequently parlayed their government connections to win even more bigger business accounts.

No less than ex-ACCRA principal, now Senate President Franklin Drilon, paid the ultimate complement by agreeing to sit on the presidential table and deliver a tribute to his former juniors, including ex-Accran, ex-The Firm, Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo.

Still, all the effusive speeches and the Broadway tunes of Isay Alvarez and Robert Sena were drowned out by the body language of the late arrival, the First Gentleman, who found himself taking the vacant seat between GMA chief of staff Wilfrido Villarama and Villaraza.

Except for brief acknowledgments, the two closest men of GMA never talked throughout the rest of the dinner and arguably developed stiff necks, with Villarama always looking to his left, and FG focused at the opposite direction.

For body heat and other bodily indicators, the person to ask is former Trade and Industry Secretary Rizalino Navarro, who had to play the genial conversationalist and seatmate of Villarama.

Money-go-round

- FORMER PSE Chair Robert Coyiuto Jr. and current PSE Chair Peter Favila seem to have struck a modus vivendi, after Favila offered Coyiuto, and the latter readily accepted, the co-chairmanship of the powerful listing committee.
- JARDINE Land plans to close down the PWU-owned Jose Abad Santos Memorial High School along Epifanio de los Santos Avenue and convert the one-hectare property into mixed-use condominium complex.

Owned by Hong Kong Land, Jardine Land has started foreclosure proceedings against the Philippine Women's University after PWU defaulted on a P210-million facility extended by the property developer in 1996.

Heard through the grapevine

FRUSTRATED at getting their hands on the Marcos assets in the Philippines, the Marcos human rights victims have filed two cases in Colorado and Texas against the pieces of property of taipan Jose Yao Campos, in their latest attempt to win execution orders for their $1.9-billion victory against Marcos abuses.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

Bayantel to come out with own cut-rate offer

By Abigail L. Ho

RESPONDING to the price challenges served up by its competitors, the Lopez-led Bayan Telecommunications Inc. this week will come out with its own "buffet" service.

Ray Montinola, BayanTel vice president for Metro Manila retail, declined to reveal in full the details of the new service.

He only said that the service would cover international direct dialing, national direct dialing and Internet services.

He said the soft selling of BayanTel's buffet offering had actually started, but the full-blown launch would not take place until this week.

BayanTel's new buffet offering, like similar services offered by its competitors, would not form part of the Lopez-owned telco firm's permanent suite of services.

It would just be a promotional offering, Montinola said.

He said BayanTel had been looking at its competitors' buffet offerings, particularly the P10 flat rate scheme of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., to determine the effect of such offerings on its landline business.

Based on internal assessments, Montinola said that PLDT's P10 flat rate scheme had affected neither its churn rate nor its new subscriber acquisitions.

The effect, albeit minimal, was felt in its national long distance revenue, he added.

"We have data showing that 10-15 percent of BayanTel subscribers also have PLDT landlines," Montinola said. "There's a minimal effect on our NLD revenues because some of our subscribers, who also have PLDT landlines, choose to use their PLDT phones for long distance calls."

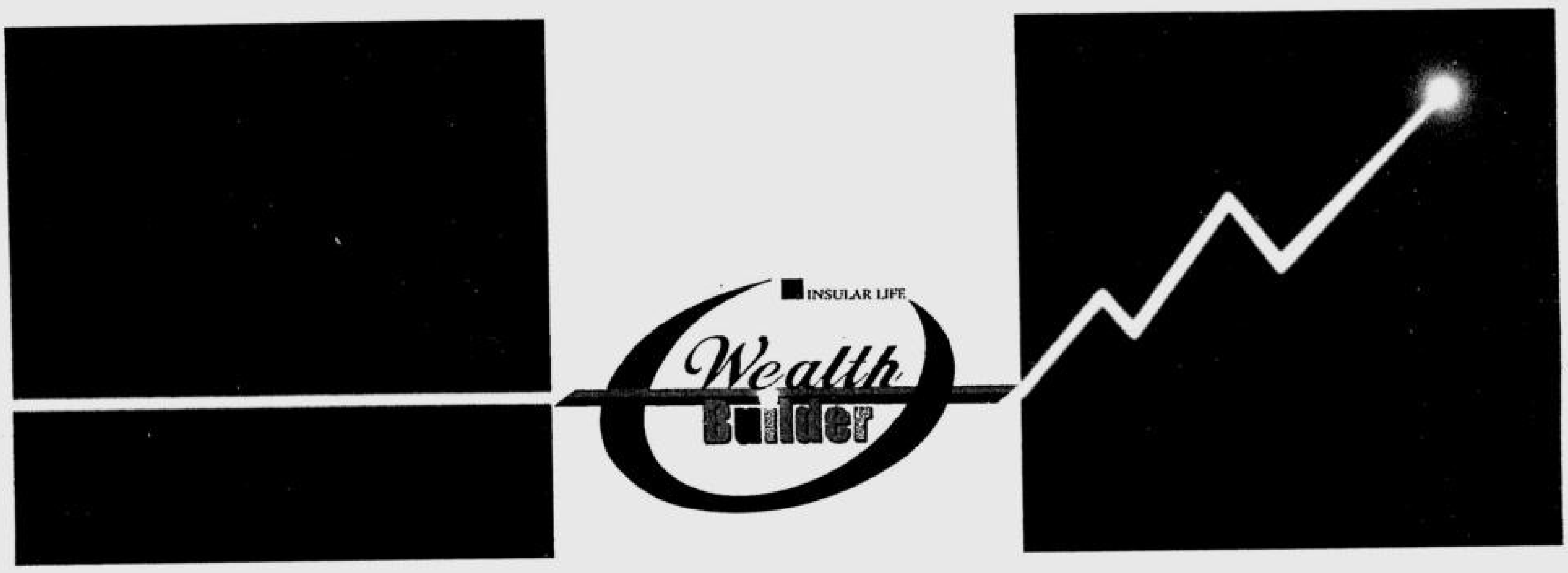
Montinola also explained that landline subscribers chose to have landlines installed not for long distance calls but primarily for local and even cellphone calls.

BayanTel's current offerings, the P499 and P699 packages, gave subscribers "the certainty of being able to use their phones," even just for the basic service, he added.

"Not everyone needs to call long distance."

BayanTel's landline subscriber base grew 9 percent in the first quarter to a little more than 300,000 subscribers.

Net revenues were placed at P1.4 billion in the first three months of the year, growing 7 percent from the P1.3 billion posted in the same period last year.



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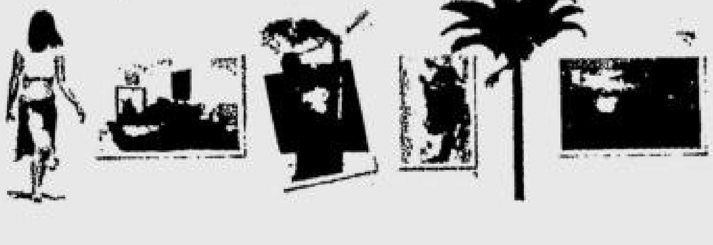

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RP joins China's early harvest program

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE COUNTRY finally signed last week an agreement governing its participation in China's preparatory program for a free-trade deal with members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

The Philippines was the last Asean member-country to join the program.

Trade Secretary Juan B. Santos said he and China's Minister of Commerce Bo Xilai wrapped up last April 27 the negotiations on the Early Harvest Program under the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation of Southeast Asian Nations and the People's Republic of China.

The Comprehensive Economic Cooperation paves the way for the realization of an Asean-China Free Trade Area by 2010.

Santos said a memorandum of understanding on the EHP, which would take effect on Jan. 1, 2006, was signed during the state visit of Chinese President Hu Jintao.

The EHP gives Asean members an advance low-tariff entry privilege before the free trade agreement takes effect on condition that Asean markets be opened to Chinese products too.

Implemented since the start of 2004, China and each of the EHP participants have cut tariffs on covered products to between 2 percent and 15 percent and agreed to remove such tariffs in 2006.

Santos said the Philippine-China EHP covered 209 tariff lines that included plant, animal and marine products.

Also, the program covered the following specific products: refined but not chemically modified copra, palm kernel or babassu oil; crude oil and refined oil products; cocoa powder, with and without added sugar or other sweetening matter; and cane, osier, bamboo or similar material.

In September 2004, then Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima said the Philippines was finally joining China's EHP that Beijing began promoting in early 2003.

"The finalization of talks took time because China was insisting on the inclusion of vegetables that are sensitive to us (because local farmers are producing them)," Santos said.

But he said Chinese negotiators relented last Wednesday and instead requested that pest risk analyses (PRA) on vegetables should be completed as soon as possible to allow the entry of shipments from China.

"Part of the MOU that we signed is our commitment to expeditiously complete the PRA for the importation of vegetables like carrots, cabbages, gingers and potatoes," Santos said.

He said this assurance was provided all within what was allowed under the country's international trade commitments.

According to the China Daily website, the EHP had spurred increases in two-way trade between China and Asean, with China importing $330 million in fruits and vegetables from Asean in the first six months of implementation or up 38.7 percent in the first half of 2003.

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GMA profit up 62% to ₱400M

GMA Network Inc. earned P400.5 million in the first three months of the year, up 62 percent from P246.5 million in the same period last year.

GMA president Felipe Gozon said the first quarter was usually a slow period for most businesses, including broadcast firms, unless it was an election year.

The network's earnings in the first three months of this year, however, even surpassed its election season performance last year. This, he said, was due to the sustained leadership of GMA in the industry in terms of profitability and ratings.

"I think we out-loaded them (ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.) by more than 5,000 minutes (in advertisements) during the first quarter. This shows that advertisers are putting their money on our top rating shows," said Gozon in an interview.

Based on the latest survey, GMA accounts for 17 of the top 20 shows in Metro Manila and nearby provinces, and all of the top 10 shows in mega Manila.

Last year, GMA surpassed its competitor's advertising load by about 10,000 minutes. In 2003, the network chalked up 3,200 minutes more in advertising against its main rival, according to the official.

Revenue from January to March grew 28 percent to P1.88 billion from P1.48 billion a year ago. Operating expenses of P733.13 million grew by only 12 percent from P652.92 million in the same period last year.

Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization went up 42 percent to P770.37 million compared to P541.03 million last year. *Clarissa S. Batino*

Megaworld's Tan bags award

THE CITY of Taguig cited Megaworld Corp. chair Andrew Tan for his outstanding achievements in business and entrepreneurship at the "Forward Taguig Awards" night held on April 29 at the Taguig City Hall.

The awards night marked Taguig's 428th founding anniversary.

Property giant Megaworld, under Tan's leadership, is helping Taguig achieve its vision to become the country's premier city by 2020 through its investments and development projects, such as Forbes Town Center and McKinley Hill.

Megaworld's first project in Taguig is the P15-billion, 5-hectare Forbes Town Center, a joint venture with Bonifacio West Development Corp.

Megaworld's first three residential projects in Forbes Town Center are Forbeswood Heights, and The Bellagio I and II.

Another groundbreaking Megaworld project, which is envisioned to transform Fort Bonifacio into a modern business district, is the 50-hectare McKinley Hill, located near Forbes Park and the Manila Golf and Country Club.

Tan's co-awardees, all well-known in their respective fields, are boxer Manny Pacquiao, sports; Miss International 2005 Precious Lara Quigaman, tourism, arts and culture; broadcaster Rene Sta. Cruz, journalism; Science and Technology Undersecretary Eriberta B. Nepomuceno, science and technology; Polytechnic University of the Philippines VP for research and development Dr. Normita L. Villa, education; Unesco Commissioner Taha M. Basman, public service; Taguig Council of Women Balikatan Movement Inc. president Herminia Perez, community service, and lawyer Nicanor Patricio, law.

Bargain ...

From page B1

measures, the main index shed 13.5 points by the end of last week to close at 1,854.63.

BPI Trade in its stock market report said the lack of new positive developments also continued to weigh on the market.

"Investors may also be waiting for the May 1 Labor Day (rally) event to pass. Other concerns include high fuel prices, inflation and interest rates," BPI Trade said.

"However, the market is still near oversold and bargain hunters are taking advantage of the low prices to accumulate select stocks," BPI Trade also said.

The broker also said that investors may be taking positions ahead of the first quarter results.

Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., the country's largest bank, reported a 53-percent jump in net income in the first quarter to P1.02 billion. Philippine National Bank also recorded net earnings of P151 million. Manila Electric Co. (Meralco), for its part, recorded a net loss of P1.71 billion for the same period.

Mearlco announced that it had decided to withdraw a petition for a tariff increase filed in October 2003 with the Energy regulatory Commission (ERC). It will file another proposal in line with a new rate setting standard adopted by the regulator.

Property giant Ayala Land Inc. said its net income grew to P1.16 billion, mainly due to the one-time gain of the sale of its investment unit, Astoria Investment Ventures Inc.

Removing the effects of the one-time gain, ALI posted a recurring income of P562 million, up 13 percent from year-ago level.

Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) recorded a net income of P2 billion for the first quarter of 2005, a 22-percent increase over last year's P1.6 billion, boosted by a 25-percent rise in total revenue. Net interest income also increased by 23 percent due to a 10-percent expansion in the average asset base and a 51-basis point improvement in the net interest margin. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

What to do with your Pacific pre-need plan

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

THE BROUHAHA brewing around Pacific Plans is getting curiouser and curiouser.

Pacific Plans was set up in 1966 as a wholly owned subsidiary of Great Pacific Life. On Aug. 12, 2004, Lifetime Plans was created as a wholly owned subsidiary of Pacific Plans. On Aug. 20, 2004, GPL Holdings bought into Lifetime Plans. On Sept. 9, 2004, Exemplar Holdings was organized, with P100,000 initial paid-up, as a wholly owned subsidiary of GPL Holdings. On Jan. 25, 2005, Exemplar bought into Lifetime Plans.

This web of interlocking ownerships and directorships must have been stitched together by top-notch lawyers. Simple mortals like me can only stand in shock and awe at all the paper shuffling.

Pacific's profitable portfolio of fixed-value plans was transferred to Lifetime, at no cost to Lifetime. Normally, if a firm takes over a profitable portfolio of business, it has to pay a premium. But no premium was paid. Lifetime got a whole bunch of profitable business absolutely for free. Pacific got nothing for its generosity.

Not only that, the party of the first part in a pre-need contract told the party of the second part that there will be a new party of the first part, and the party of the second part has no say over the matter. In the insurance business, the insurer can get out of the contract by canceling the policy, but the insured, by law, is given enough time to transfer the policy to a company of his choice.

The portfolio of open-ended, or traditional, plans was left at Pacific. The plan holders have been told that they will get only tuition support this year (about 30 percent of what is actually due). Payments will resume on 2010, but the plan holders will earn a measly 7 percent a year until then. A life insurance company does not tell the insured, after paying premiums for years, that his endowment policy will be changed to term—and the insured has no say over the matter.

Incredibly, the Securities and Exchange Commission blessed the transfer (the Insurance Commission would never have allowed this), and a regional trial court okayed the suspension of payments.

While a protest group is gearing up for the legal battle ahead, the individual plan holder has to make a hard decision. What will he do with his Pacific/Lifetime pre-need plan, open-ended or fixed?

He should base his decision on two provisions in the contract. The first says, "A plan holder is given a grace period of two months within which to pay any installment due. If any installment remains unpaid beyond the grace period, this agreement shall be considered of no force and effect. However, the plan holder shall be allowed to reinstate this agreement within a period of two years from date of default. Otherwise, this agreement shall be considered automatically cancelled and all payments shall be forfeited in favor of Pacific as liquidated damages."

If the plan holder stops the installments, he has two years to decide to reinstate the plan. If the plan is not reinstated within two years, all payments are lost forever.

If the plan holder wants to terminate the plan, then the plan termination value provision kicks in: "A plan holder may terminate his in force plan at any time by giving written notice to Pacific and he shall be entitled to termination value, as follows:

Payment Received	Plan Termination Value
20% of plan value or less	0% of total plan payment
40% of plan value	20% of total plan payment
60% of plan value	30% of total plan payment
80% of plan value	40% of total plan payment
100% of plan value	50% of total plan payment

"Upon payment of the plan termination value, this agreement is automatically cancelled and Pacific shall be discharged from further obligations. Total plan payment shall mean actual payment minus handling and other charges."

I sympathize with my sons Jim and Louie who have traditional plans, and everybody else in the same spot. Either way, they have a tough decision to make.

Levin group eyes MRT 3 extension

By Clarissa S. Batino

UNIVERSAL LRT Corp., controlled by Israeli businessman Eli Levin, is interested in bidding for the extension of Metro Rail Transit 3, which will span from North Edsa to Samson Road in Caloocan City, transport officials said.

The officials said Levin's group was proposing to close the loop from its proposed MRT 7 all the way to the Caloocan stations of North Rail and Southrail.

Transport Secretary Leandro Mendoza said several foreign and local groups had expressed interest to undertake the project. He said the department was finalizing the terms of reference for the bidding.

Other foreign groups are said to be interested to bid for the MRT 3 extension. These, he said, were Japan's Sumitomo Corp. and Marubeni Corp., and Korea-based Hanjin Corp. Certain American firms were also following up on the the project, he added.

The group of FF Cruz & Co. had submitted a proposal for the MRT 3 extension to the transportation department last year. Fil Systems Corp., for its part, offered to do the 5-kilometer metro railway loop for $230 million.

MRT 3 extension is expected to increase its ridership to 684,000 passengers daily, up by 71 percent from the present traffic of more than 400,000 per day. To meet the demand forecast, 95 additional trains will have to be acquired.

Instead of connecting MRT 3 with Line 1 of the Light Rail Transit in Monumento as originally planned, the proposed extension would go all the way to Samson Road in Caloocan where the North Rail and South Rail stations would be located.

Mendoza said this would add about 700 meters to the original distance of 5.2 km.

"We would bid out the extension soon. We are just finalizing the terms. Many groups including Eli Levin have expressed interest," said the transport chief in an interview.

Universal LRT is controlled by Levin's EL International Corp. It has reportedly attracted investors such as the Sy family, through SM Capital and BDO Capital, the Go family of Equitable PCI Bank, Penta Capital, Japanese firm Premier Gold.

Foreign contractors—including Japan's Sumitomo Corp., France's Alstom, Germany's Siemens, China's CNTIC—and EEI Corp. of the Yuchengco family are members of the consortium.

Universal LRT Corp. is proposing a $1.2-billion, 22-km railway from San Jose Bulacan to North Edsa.

The transportation department is preparing to conduct a Swiss challenge for Levin's unsolicited proposal.

Slated for operations by 2009, MRT 7 is expected to move between 650,000 and 800,000 passengers daily. It would have 13 elevated stations and one underground (in Quezon City memorial).

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CIBELES INSURANCE CORPORATION
SYNOPSIS OF ANNUAL STATEMENT
As of December 31, 2003

ADMITTED ASSETS		
Bonds	P	315,003,036.14
Stocks		14,010,792.96
Real Estate		109,274,581.40
Security Fund		13,671.00
Other Investments		10,100,000.00
Cash on Hand and in Banks		243,035,140.15
Premiums Receivable		8,681,625.39
Premiums Due From Ceding Companies		3,075,300.53
Premiums Reserve Withheld by Ceding Companies		1,088,432.50
Reinsurance Recoverable on Losses		93,471,552.61
Accrued Investment Income		6,647,071.20
EDP Machines		306,637.07
Total Admitted Assets		**P 804,707,840.95**
LIABILITIES		
Losses & Claims Payable	P	147,788,230.56
Loss Adjustment Expense Payable		382,992.34
Reserve for Unearned Premiums		45,991,934.06
Catastrophe Loss Reserve		505,222.20
Premiums Due to Reinsurers		38,916,797.96
Premiums Reserve Withheld for Reinsurers		14,268,634.56
Commissions Payable		2,916,352.31
Accrued Expenses		430,025.05
Taxes Payable		57,667,016.87
Accounts Payable		845,004.06
Unearned Bond Discount		902,073.33
Other Liabilities		32,596,510.83
Total Liabilities		**P 343,210,794.13**
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Capital Stock Paid-up	P	200,000,000.00
Contributed Surplus		100,000.00
Contingency Surplus		594,941.67
Special Surplus Funds:		
Fluctuation Reserve – Stocks		3,337,696.82
Revaluation Reserve – Real Estate		42,957,750.00
Retained Earnings		214,506,658.33
Total Stockholders' Equity		**P 461,497,046.82**
Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity		**P 804,707,840.95**

(This Synopsis, prepared from the 2003 Annual Statement, approved by the Insurance Commissioner, is published pursuant to Section 225 of the Insurance Code of 1978, as amended.)

UNIVERSITY OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
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UCPB PROPERTY MARKET

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO SUMMER HEAT AUCTION

May 10, 2005 • 4:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. • Hall C, Conference Center, SM City Cebu, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City

10% DOWNPAYMENT **11% INTEREST** **10 YEARS TO PAY**

AKLAN

UCPB_V001 -MEMORIAL PARK
L.A 41. 887sqm.
Interior Of Bo Tigayon. Kalibo
Minimum Bid Price: P 11,430,000

UCPB_V002 -RSDL LOT
L.A. 777 sqm
Brgy Andagao Municipality of Kalibo
Minimum Bid Price P 210,000

UCPB_V003 - COMM'L LOT
L.A. 500 sqm. W/ IMP
Subd. Rd, Brgy. New Buswang, Kalibo
Minimum Bid Price: P 5,782,500

UCPB_V004 - COMM'L LOT
L.A. 1,578 sqm.
Balabag Rd, Brgy. Balabag Boracay Is.
Minimum Bid Price: P 4,230,000

UCPB_V007 - RSD'L LOT
L.A. 460 5 sqm.
Roxas Ave., Ext. Bo.Andagao. Kalibo
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,440,000

UCPB_V008 - RSD'L LOT
L.A. 1,632 sqm.
Unnamed Rd. Brgy Rd, Brgy Tinigao, Kalibo
Minimum Bid Price. P 585,000

UCPB_V009 - 2 STOREY
L.A. 1,518 sqm RSD'L BLDG.
Cipriano St., Barrio Estancia, Kalibo
Minimum Bid Price: P 3,060,000

UCPB_V010 RSD'L W/ IMP
L.A 547 sqm
Osmeña Avenue, Brgy. Estancia, Kalibo
Minimum Bid Price P 1,580,000

UCPB_V011 RSD'L LOT
L.A. 470 sqm.
Interior Of Brgy. Tigayon, Kalibo
Minimum Bid Price P 198,000

UCPB_V012 - RSD'L LOT
L.A. 134sqm W/ IMP
Brgy Rd, Brgy. Calician Proper, Malay
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,590,000

UCPB_V013 - RSD'L LOT
L.A. 1,800 sqm.
Brgy Rd. Brgy. Calician Proper, Malay
Minimum Bid Price: P 480,000

UCPB_V014 - RSD'L LOT
L.A. 548 sqm
Cor. d L5 & 6 Mercedes Village, Brgy New Buswang Kalibo
Minimum Bid Price: P 710,000

UCPB_V015 - COMM'L LOT
L.A 549 sqm. W/ IMP
Rizal St., Poblacion, Kalibo
Minimum Bid Price P 5,148,000

UCPB_V016 - RSD'L LOT W/ IMP
L.A.167 sqm
Brgy Andagao, Kalibo
Minimum Bid Price. P 1,850,000

UCPB_V017 - RSD'L LOT
L.A 18 245 sqm
Brgy Bulwang, Numancia
Minimum Bid Price: P 3,650,000

UCPB_V018 -VACANT LOT
L.A 1,001 sqm
Brgy Andagao, Municipality of Kalibo
Minimum Bid Price: P 150,000

UCPB_V019 - 2 VACANT LOT
L.A 480 sqm
L7, Mercedes Vil., New Buswang
Minimum Bid Price: P 620,000

UCPB_V020 - VACANT LOT
L.A 240 sqm
L6. Mercedes Vil ,New Buswang
Minimum Bid Price: P 310,000

UCPB_V021 - RSDL LOT W/ IMP
L.A 216 sqm
L13. Mercedes Vil., New Buswang
Minimum Bid Price: P 890,000

UCPB_V022 - RSD'L LOT
L.A 240 sqm.
L4, Mercedes Vil ,New Buswang
Minimum Bid Price. P 990,000

UCPB_V023 - RSD'L LOT
L.A. 266 sqm
L4 & 6. Mercedes Vil. ,New Buswang
Minimum Bid Price: P 345,000

UCPB_V024 - COMM'L LOT
L.A. 1,063 sqm
Bo Of New Buswang
Minimum Bid Price P 1,291,600

UCPB_V025 - RSDL LOT W/ IMP
L.A 844 sqm
Boracay Main Rd ,Brgy. Manoc-manoc, Boracay Is.
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,035,000

UCPB_V026 - RSDL LOT W/ IMP
L.A 788 sqm
Boracay Main Rd ,Brgy. Manoc-manoc. Boracay Is.
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,007,000

UCPB_V027 - COMM'L LOT W/ IMP
L.A 7,189 sqm
Brgy Roads, Brgy. Bulwang., Numancia
Minimum Bid Price P 1,930,000

UCPB_V028 - COMM'L LOT W/ IMP
L.A 3 990 sqm
Nat'l Road Brgy Bulwang. Numancia
Minimum Bid Price: P 5,810,000

UCPB_V029 - RSD'L LOT
L.A 1 470 sqm
Nat'l Road, Brgy Bulwang, Numancia
Minimum Bid Price: P 860,000

UCPB_V030 - 3 RSD'L LOT
L.A 1 302 sqm
Unnamed Subd Rd
Magdalena Vill. Brgy New Buswang
Minimum Bid Price. P 1,500,000

UCPB_V031 - RSD'L LOT
L.A 2 000 sqm
Interior Of Brgy Bulwang, Numancia
Minimum Bid Price: P 850,000

UCPB_V032 - 5 RSD'L LOT
L.A 5 985 sqm
B4 Mercedes Vil., Brgy New Buswang Minimum Bid Price P1,705,000

UCPB_V033 - 2 VACANT LOT
L.A. 1,916 sqm.
An Unnamed Subd Road
Brgy New Buswang, Kalibo
Minimum Bid Price. P 1,260,000

UCPB_V034 - 3 RSD'L LOT
L.A. 2,136 sqm.
Boracay Main Road, Brgy. Manoc-manoc, Boracay Island, Malay
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,196,000

UCPB_V036 - 1 STOREY
L.A. 6,058 sqm.WAREHOUSE
Nat'l Road & Brgy. Rd.
Brgy Calician
Minimum Bid Price: P 12,050,000

UCPB_V037 - AGRI-LOT
L.A. 4,688 sqm.
Interior of Brgy Calician, Mun. of Malay
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,224,000

UCPB_V038 - 2 STOREY
L.A. 645sqm. RSD'L BLDG.
Nat'l Rd & Brgy Rd Calician
Minimum Bid Price. P 3,220,000

UCPB_V039 - 1 STOREY
L.A. 616 sqm RSD'L BDLG.
Main Rd, Magdalena Vil New Buswang
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,161,000

ANTIQUE

UCPB_V040 - 4 VACANT LOT
L.A. 16,182sqm. W/ IMP
Brgy San Pedro, San Jose
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,225,000

BOHOL

UCPB_V041 - 2 STOREY BLDG.
L.A 2,576sqm.
Espuelas St., Poblacion, Tagbilaran City
Minimum Bid Price: P 5,110,000

UCPB_V042 - 2 RSD'L LOT
L.A.14,176sqm.
Bgy Road, Dampas, District, Tagbilaran City
Minimum Bid Price: P 7,090,000

UCPB_V043 - RSD'L LOT
L.A. 4,545sqm.
Binayran Road, Dampas District, Tagbilaran City
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,270,000

UCPB_V044 - RSDL W/ IMP
L.A 1,891 sqm.
J. A. Clarin St. 3rd District, Tagbilaran, City
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,000,000

CAPIZ

UCPB_V045 - FISHPOND
L.A 122,252sqm
Brgy Binanluan, Municipality of Panay
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,830,000

UCPB_V046 - RSD'L W/ IMP
L.A 380 sqm
Rd L1. Menam Park Subd., (Fuentes Subd.)
Minimum Bid Price: P 585,000

UCPB_V047 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 521 sqm.
Altavas Subdivision. Brgy Baybay
Minimum Bid Price. P 552,500

UCPB_V048 - VACANT LOT
L.A 500 sqm.
Road-Right-of-Way. Brgy Baybay
Minimum Bid Price: P 750,000

UCPB_V049 - IND'L LOT
L.A 6,437 sqm
National Road. Brgy Ondoy, Ivisan
Minimum Bid Price. P 1,719,000

UCPB_V050 - RSD'L W/ IMP
L.A 233sqm.
Luna Novicio St., Brgy Ilaya
Minimum Bid Price. P 1,550,000

UCPB_V051 - RSD'L LOT
L.A. 1,164 sqm
Bo Andres Bonifacio
Minimum Bid Price: P 340,000

UCPB_V053 - RSD'L W/ IMP
L.A. 329 sqm.
L1, Menam Park Subd., (Fuentes Subd.)
Minimum Bid Price: P 460,000

UCPB_V054 - AGRI-LOT
L.A. 237,779 sqm
Sinabsaban Cuartero
Minimum Bid Price P 550,000

UCPB_V056 - COMM'L LOT W/ IMP
L.A 1,500 sqm.
Nat'l., Rd. (Roxas Ave.), Km. 1, Brgy Lawaan
Minimum Bid Price: P 5,121,000

UCPB_V057 - 1 STOREY
L.A. 600 sqm RSD'L BLDG.
Rd L1. Paragon Subd., Brgy Dinginan
Minimum Bid Price: P 625,000

UCPB_V058 - 4 VACANT LOT
L.A. 756 sqm.
Paragon Subdivision, Brgy. Dinginan
Minimum Bid Price: P 296,532

CEBU

UCPB_V059 - COMM'L LOT
L.A 1,080 sqm W/ IMP
J. Rizal St., Brgy. Poblacion, Mandaue
Minimum Bid Price: P 10,350,000

UCPB_V060 - 4 RSD'L W/ IMP
L.A. 2,822 sqm
Cansojong Talisay City Cebu
Minimum Bid Price P 3,600,000

UCPB_V061 - 2 STOREY
L.A 315 sqm COMM'L BLDG
Colon & Borromeo Sts., interior of Brgy Pahina Central
Minimum Bid Price: P 7,300,000

UCPB_V062 - COMM'L LOT W/ IMP
L.A 797 sqm
#755 Rama Ave., Brgy. Guadalupe
Minimum Bid Price P 2,205,000

UCPB_V063 - 3 RSD'L LOT
L.A. 647 sqm.
Road Lot No 1. Espina Village
Minimum Bid Price: P 3,170,000

UCPB_V065 - RSD'L LOT
L.A 12,378sqm
Within Brgy Biasong, Talisay
Minimum Bid Price P 2,475,000

UCPB_V066 - RAWLAND
L.A 15,076sqm.
Interior Portion of Brgy Busay
Minimum Bid Price: P 6,600,000

UCPB_V068 - RSD'L LOT
L.A. 3,379 sqm.
Interior Road Right-of-Way, Brgy. Pit-os
Minimum Bid Price: P 950,000

UCPB_V069 - RSD'L LOT
L.A. 38,755sqm.
Transcentral Highway, Brgy. Busay
Minimum Bid Price: P 23,571,000

UCPB_V071 - 2 STOREY
L.A. 407.5sqm. RSD'L BLDG.
T Vila St, Brgy T. Padilla
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,020,000

ILOILO

UCPB_V072 - 3 STRY COMML BLDG
L.A. 1,550 sqm. W/ WAREHOUSE
San Benigno S. Aquino Ave. Brgy. San Rafael Mandurriao
Minimum Bid Price. P 22,340,000

UCPB_V073 - COMM'L LOT W/ IMP
L.A. 1,785 sqm.
Jocson St, Brgy San Jose, Arevalo
Minimum Bid Price: P 11,190,000

UCPB_V074 - RSD'L LOT
L.A. 35,141 sqm
Pro. Rd, Brgy. Carvasana, Calinog
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,381,500

UCPB_V076 - 2 RSD'L LOT
L.A. 19,665sqm.
Rizal St. Brgy. Poblacion Ilaya, Calinog
Minimum Bid Price: P 4,045,500

UCPB_V078 - RSD'L LOT
L.A. 525sqm.
3rd St., Juntado Subd., San Juan, Molo
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,530,000

UCPB_V080 - 2 STOREY
L.A.761sqm. RSDL BLDG.
Jaro-Leganes Pro.Rd Brgy. Quitin Salas
Minimum Bid Price: P 8,690,000

UCPB_V081 - AGRI-LOT
L.A. 159,505sqm.
Brgy. Alaguisoc San Miguel Jordan
Minimum Bid Price: P 4,100,000

UCPB_V082 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 10,000sqm.
J.C. Zulueta St., Brgy. Poblacion, Oton
Minimum Bid Price: P 5,600,000

UCPB_V083 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,787sqm.
Gonzaga St., Poblacion, Pavia
Minimum Bid Price. P 1,674,000

UCPB_V084 - AGRI LOT
L.A. 131,815sqm.
Brgy. Polopiña, Polopiña Island
Minimum Bid Price: P 8,700,000

UCPB_V086 - 2 RSD'L LOT
L.A. 3,878sqm.
Brgy. Trapiche, Oton
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,070,000

UCPB_V088 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 54,431sqm.
Brgy Agutayan Sta. Barbara
Minimum Bid Price. P 2,187,000

LEYTE

UCPB_V090 - RSD'L LOT
L.A. 613sqm. (VARIOUS)
V & G Better Homes Subd Carbaan
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,180,025

UCPB_V091 - RSD'L LOT
L.A. 640sqm. (VARIOUS)
V & G Better Homes Subd Carbaan
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,232,000

NEGROS ORIENTAL & OCCIDENTAL

UCPB_V093 - RSD'L W/ IMP
L.A 997sqm.
Bgy Bata Bacolod
Minimum Bid Price. P 1,917,000

UCPB_V094 - COMM'L LOT W/ IMP
L.A. 921sqm.
Ramylu Subd Bacolod
Minimum Bid Price P 1,044,000

UCPB_V095 - COMM'L LOT
L.A. 2,449sqm
L29 Nat'l Rd Brgy Guinhalaran
Minimum Bid Price. P 2,920,000

UCPB_V097 - RSD'L LOT
L.A. 1,258sqm. W/ IMP
San Pedro St., San Sebastian Subd
Minimum Bid Price. P 846,000

UCPB_V098 - RSD'L LOT
L.A. 1,000sqm. W/ IMP
San Pedro St., San Sebastian Subd
Minimum Bid Price: P 558,000

UCPB_V099 - 2 STOREY
L.A 901sqm RSDL BLDG.
Del Pilar St San Sebastian Subd
Minimum Bid Price P 940,000

UCPB_V100 - VACANT LOT
L.A 1,000sqm.
San Pedro St., San Sebastian Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: P 630,000

UCPB_V101 - 2 STOREY
L.A 1,000sqm RSD'L BLDG
Puentebella Subd., Brgy Taculing
Minimum Bid Price. P 3,010,000

UCPB_V102 - 1 STOREY
L.A. 540sqm RSD'L BLDG
27Th St., Brgy #1. Poblacion.
Minimum Bid Price P 1,160,000

UCPB_V103 - RSD'L LOT W/ IMP
L.A 1,785sqm.
Zircon St., City Heights Subd
Minimum Bid Price. P 3,240,000

UCPB_V106 - 1 STOREY
L.A. 780 sqm. RSD'L BLDG
RHO & PHI St Greensvile Subd.
Minimum Bid Price P 2,400,000

UCPB_V107 - COMML LOT
L.A 2,000 sqm.
Carlos Hilado Drive Marapara Heights
Minimum Bid Price P 2, 835,000

UCPB_V108 - 1 STOREY
L.A. 868sqm. RSD'L BLDG.
Tambis St., Brgy Villamonte
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,110,000

UCPB_V109 - 2 STOREY
L.A. 2,171sqm RSD'L BLDG.
A. Luna & Plandel Sts. Silay
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,349,000

UCPB_V110 - RSD'L LOT
L.A. 2,479 sqm.
Interior of Sitio Berrano, Silay City
Minimum Bid Price P 560,000

UCPB_V111 - RSD'L LOT
L.A. 7,424 sqm. W/ IMP
Mambulac & Don E. Gaston Sts. Brgy Mambulac
Minimum Bid Price: P 2, 600,000

UCPB_V112 - COMM'L LOT W/ IMP
L.A. 775 sqm.
Rizal St & Gatuslao St. Bgy. Pob. 4 Hinigaran
Minimum Bid Price: P 4,070,000

UCPB_V113 - RSD'L LOT W/ IMP
L.A. 356 sqm.
Purok Kalilingban, Zone 3, Bata Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,640,000

UCPB_V114 - 2 STOREY
L.A 353 sqm. COMM'L BLDG.
M.L. Quezon St., Poblacion Guihulngan
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,890,000

AGUSAN DEL NORTE & SUR

UCPB_M001 - RDSL LOT w/IMP
L.A. 1,059sqm
Unnamed Road, Brgy. Limahan
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,575,000

BUKIDNON

UCPB_M003 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 263 sqm.
Lunsayang St., Sumpong, Malaybalay City
Minimum Bid Price: P 81,000

UCPB_M004 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 8,508sqm. (4 lots)
Lumbo Municipale I, Valencia
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,300,000

UCPB_M005 - AGRI - LOT
L.A. 8,854sqm. (10 lots)
National Highway Brgy Panadtalan,
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,695,000

UCPB_M006 - AGRI - LOT
L.A. 35,730sqm.
Bo Palpal, Malaybalay
Minimum Bid Price. P 387,000

DAVAO DEL NORTE & DEL SUR

UCPB_M007 - 1 STOREY
L.A 880sqm RSDL BLDG
Tigatto Road Buhangin
Minimum Bid Price P 1,440,000

UCPB_M008 - AGRI LOT
L.A. 147,290sqm (2 lots)
Bgy Communal, Buhangin
Minimum Bid Price. P 35,350,000

UCPB_M009 - AGRI LOT
L.A 15 232 sqm. (5 lots)
Bgy Communal, Buhanging
Minimum Bid Price: P 34,270,000

UCPB_M010 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 18,149 54sqm (175 lots)
Cabantian Country Homes. Phase 1
Minimum Bid Price P 10,780,000

UCPB_M011 - 1 STOREY
L.A. 240sqm.(2 lots) RSDL BLDG.
Countryville Executive Homes, Bgy Cabantian
Minimum Bid Price: P 274,000

UCPB_M012 - RSDL LOT
L.A 41,689sqm (3 lots)
Countrywide Shelters
Minimum Bid Price. P 7,300,000

UCPB_M014 - VACANT LOT
L.A 700 sqm (2 lots)
Interior Quezon Blvd
Minimum Bid Price P 1,000,000

UCPB_M015 - AGRI LOT
L.A 40,450 sqm (2 lots)
Sto Nino cabantian, Buhangin
Minimum Bid Price P 9,930,000

UCPB_M019 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 300sqm
Along Quezon Blvd Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price P 7,312,500

UCPB_M020 - RSDL LOT
L.A 1,594 sqm (13 lots)
Dina Vil Subdivision, Ma-A
Minimum Bid Price. P 1, 270,000

UCPB_M021 - 1 RSDL BLDG.
L.A 330sqm
Doña Luisa Subd., Matina. Ph 2
Minimum Bid Price P 603,000

UCPB_M022 - 3 COMM'L LOT
L.A. 7,106sqm
J P Laurel Avenue & V. Mapa St. San Roque
Minimum Bid Price. P165,051,000

UCPB_M023 - RSDL LOT W/ IMP
L.A 2,978sqm
Interior Mercedes Drive, Km. 10, Bo Sasa
Minimum Bid Price: P 3,960,000

UCPB_M024 - RSDL LOT W/ IMP
L.A 1 884sqm
Quimpo Boulevard, Matina
Minimum Bid Price P 16,010,000

UCPB_M025 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 6,568 sqm (6 lots)
Sitio Tambakan, Barrio Dalliao, Toril
Minimum Bid Price P 1,170,000

UCPB_M026 - 2 STOREY
L.A 300 sqm RSDL BLDG
Everly Hills Subd. Bgy 5-A Bankerohan.
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,547,000

UCPB_M027 - RSDL LOT
L.A 600sqm
Central Park Blvd. Santos Mkig Subd
Minimum Bid Price P 1,620,000

UCPB_M028 - RSDL LOT
L.A 13,081sqm (VARIOUS)
Tierra Solariega
Minimum Bid Price P 558,000.00

UCPB_M029 - RSDL LOT
L.A 13,081sqm (VARIOUS)
Tierra Solariega
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,260,000

UCPB_M031 - 2 AGRI - LOT
L.A. 192,508sqm.
Bo Ma-A, Davao del Sur
Minimum Bid Price: P 84,000,000

UCPB_M033 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 5,599sqm (8 lots)
Balulakay Road, San Jose, Digos
Minimum Bid Price: P 427,000

UCPB_M034 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 494sqm
Brgy Matti. Digos City
Minimum Bid Price: P 54,000

UCPB_M035 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 280sqm
Brgy Road, Brgy. Bolton, Sulop
Minimum Bid Price: P 28,000

UCPB_M036 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 513 sqm.
Brgy San Miguel, Digos City
Minimum Bid Price P 60,000

UCPB_M042 - 3 RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,076sqm
Interior of Dalicor, Brgy. Matiao
Minimum Bid Price: P 510,000

LANAO DEL NORTE & DEL SUR

UCPB_M043 - 2 STOREY
L.A 20,467sqm INDST'T BLDG
Tipanoy Road, Bo. Tipanoy, Iligan City
Minimum Bid Price: P 16,975,000

UCPB_M044 - 2 VACANT LOT
L.A. 121,817sqm
Mun. Of Kolambugan
Minimum Bid Price: P 213,179.00

UCPB_M046 - RSDL LOT
L.A 768 sqm
Macapagal Ave Camague, Tominobo
Minimum Bid Price: P 2 400,000

MISAMIS ORIENTAL & OCCIDENTAL

UCPB_M045 -COMM'L BLDG.
L.A. 860sqm.
S K Pendatum & Doña Lutgarda Blanco Sts.,
Minimum Bid Price: P 5,960,000

UCPB_M047 - 2 STOREY
L.A 1,036sqm RSDL BLDG.
Nat'l Highway, Bonifacio
Minimum Bid Price P 630,000

UCPB_M049 - AGRI - LOT
L.A. 181,976sqm.
Mun. of Plandel
Minimum Bid Price: P 360,000

UCPB_M051 - AGRO COMML
L.A 33,576sqm W/ IMP
Bo. Pagahan, Initao. Iligan City
Minimum Bid Price. P 9,700,000

UCPB_M052 - AGRI LOT W/ IMP
L.A 17,899 sqm
Taytay Passed Rd, Bo. Taytay El Salvador
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,680,000

UCPB_M053 - RSDL LOT w/IMP
L.A. 729sqm
L7 B23, African Tulip Loop Xavier Estate
Minimum Bid Price: P 3,096,000

UCPB_M054 - RSDL LOTS
L.A 32,323sqm (234 lots)
Bo Macasandig, Cagayan De Oro City
Minimum Bid Price P 9,423,000

UCPB_M055 - RSDL LOTS
L.A 2,723 sqm (33 lots)
Perlita Exec Homes, North Poblacion Medina
Minimum Bid Price P 1,224,000

UCPB_M056 - 3 RSDL LOTS
L.A. 50 795sqm
Brgy Macasandig (Site Of Narhills)
Minimum Bid Price: P 18,920,000

UCPB_M057 - AGRI - LOT
L.A. 45,992sqm
Bo Cogon, Balingasag
Minimum Bid Price P 774,000

UCPB_M058 - 1 STOREY
L.A 400sqm RSDL BLDG.
Apovel Subd., Bulua, Cagayan De Oro
Minimum Bid Price: P 1, 860,000

UCPB_M059 - 1 STOREY
L.A. 1,000sqm RSDL BLDG
Kauswagan. Cagayan De Oro City
Minimum Bid Price P 722,000

UCPB_M060 - AGRI - LOT
L.A 228,563 sqm.
Dolawan. Lumbia, Cagayan De Oro City
Minimum Bid Price. P 6,440,000

UCPB_M061 - RSDL LOT
L.A 1,015,725sqm (13 lots)
Opol. Misamis Oriental
Minimum Bid Price. P 85,730,000

UCPB_M063 - RSDL LOT
L.A 1,694sqm w/ IMP
Nat'l Highway, Iponan Cagayan de Oro
Minimum Bid Price: P 5,481,000

UCPB_M064 - RSDL LOT
L.A 236sqm
Bulua. Cagayan de Oro
Minimum Bid Price P 240,000

UCPB_M065 - AGRI - LOT
L.A 588sqm
Velez Cagayan De Oro Branch
Minimum Bid Price P 15,890,000

UCPB_M066 - COMML LOT
L.A 3,000sqm
Bolonsin Road. Camaman-an Cagayan de Oro
Minimum Bid Price. P 2,550,000

UCPB_M067 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 523 sqm.
Bo. Macasandig, Cagayan de Oro City
Minimum Bid Price P 260,000

SURIGAO

UCPB_M068 - 1 STOREY
L.A. 757sqm RSDL BLDG
Quano Ceniza Hts Subd., Bo Cambingon
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,100,000

UCPB_M069 - COMM'L LOT
L.A 85sqm
cor Kaimo & Narciso Sts. Surigao City
Minimum Bid Price: P 470,000

UCPB_M070 - 1 STOREY
L.A. 541sqm. COMML BLDG.
Borromeo St., Surigao City
Minimum Bid Price. P2,855,000

SOUTH AND NORTH COTABATO

UCPB_M072 - COMML LOT
L.A. 2,700sqm.
Along Gov. Gutierrez Avenue
Minimum Bid Price: P 13,797,000

UCPB_M073 - COMML LOT
L.A. 376sqm.
Sinsuat Avenue, Rosary Heights
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,277,000

UCPB_M074 - COMML LOT
L.A. 460 sqm.
Quezon Ave. Poblacion Cotabato City
Minimum Bid Price: P 4,140,000

UCPB_M075 - 3 STOREY
L.A. 340sqm. COMM'L BLDG.
Tacurong. Sultan Kudarat
Minimum Bid Price P 7,500,000

UCPB_M076 - 2 STOREY
L.A 968sqm RSDL BLDG.
Pendatun And Juan Dela Cruz Sts.
Minimum Bid Price: P 873,000

UCPB_M077 -AGRI - LOT
L.A. 435,459sqm.
Bo Amas, Kidapawan
Minimum Bid Price. P 3,030,000

UCPB_M078 - COMM'L LOT
L.A. 131sqm.
Sinsuat Ave., Rosary Heights Subd.
Minimum Bid Price. P 2,530,000

UCPB_M079 - 1 STOREY
L.A 315sqm RSDL BLDG.
L12, Arellano St., Artieda Subd.
Minimum Bid Price P 1,111,500

UCPB_M080 - RSDL LOT
L.A 506sqm.
Lot 16, Casa Subd., Koronadal
Minimum Bid Price P 273,600 00

UCPB_M081 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 315sqm.
L21. Artieda Subd., Marbel
Minimum Bid Price: P 189,000.00

UCPB_M082 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,039 sqm.
Lot 2-J, Guanzon Subd., Brgy. Morales
Minimum Bid Price: P 320,000.00

UCPB_M083 - RSDL LOT
L.A 400 sqm.
L3040-A, Nat'l Highway Brgy. Morales
Minimum Bid Price: P 234,000

UCPB_M084 - 1 STOREY
L.A 410sqm RSDL BLDG
Avelina Guberrez & Jasmin Sts Rosary Hts
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,180,000

UCPB_M085 - RSD'L LOT
L.A 2,500sqm.
Int lot Nat'l Highway Bo Tamontaka,
Minimum Bid Price: P 500,000

UCPB_M086 - 3 COMM'L LOT
L.A 6,688sqm. W/ IMP
Nat'l Highway Zone IV,Bo Marbel
Minimum Bid Price: P 9,800,100

UCPB_M087 - RSDL LOT
L.A 9,740sqm. (110 lots)
Sarangani Country Homes, Tambler
Minimum Bid Price: P 6,335,000

UCPB_M089 - RSDL LOT
L.A 4,873 50 sqm (49 lots)
Tupi Pilot Subd., Bo. Poblacion Tupi
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,648,000

UCPB_M090 - RSDL LOT
L.A 1,000sqm(2 lots)
Casa Subdivision, Koronadal
Minimum Bid Price. P 445,000 00

UCPB_M092 - RSDL LOT
L.A 679 sqm.
Jayce & Aurora St.,Tacurong, Sultan Kudarat
Minimum Bid Price: P 549,000

UCPB_M093 - 1 STOREY
L.A 4 374sqm. (2 lots) IND'ST BLDG.
Rd Leading to Bo. Sto. Nino
Minimum Bid Price. P 2,133,000

UCPB_M094 - AGRI - LOT
L.A 4,908sqm (8 lots)
Bo San Isidro, Koronadal
Minimum Bid Price: P 441,000

UCPB_M095 - VACANT LOT
L.A 448sqm.
Papaya St., Gen Santos City
Minimum Bid Price P 1,210,000

UCPB_M096 - COMM'L LOT
L.A 14,442sqm W/ IMP
Leon Llido St., Lagao, Gen Santos
Minimum Bid Price P 28,311,000

UCPB_M097 - RSDL LOT
L.A 447 sqm. W/ IMP
Pioneer Avenue, Gen Santos City
Minimum Bid Price P 16,702,000

UCPB_M098 - 1 STOREY
L.A 416sqm RSDL BLDG
T. V Juliano St. Bañas Subd Rosario Hts
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,134,000

UCPB_M099 - 2 STOREY
L.A. 1,794 COMML BLDG
Jose Lim. Sr St
Minimum Bid Price. P 14,818,500

UCPB_M100 - RSDL LOT
L.A 475sqm
Within Osita Subd Koronadal
Minimum Bid Price P 238,000

UCPB_M102 - 2 RSDL LOT
L.A. 640sqm
Santiago Subd., Brgy. Bula, Gen Santos
Minimum Bid Price P 630,000

ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE & SUR

UCPB_M106 - 2 STOREY
L.A 1,065 sqm RSDL BLDG.
B. Aquino St., Gatas Dist., Pagadian City
Minimum Bid Price: P 7,120,000

UCPB_M109 - 1 STOREY
L.A 347 sqm RSD'L BLDG.
1st Street, Aurora Village
Minimum Bid Price P 535,000.00

SHOW MONEY: Php 25,000 CASH/MC PER PROPERTY • ALL PROPERTIES FOR SALE ARE ON AN "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" • PROPERTIES AND PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGES WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

CEBU TELEPHONE NO.: (032)413-9335
CEBU AND LEYTE CELLPHONE NO.: (0917)895-6140
ILOILO, AKLAN, CAPIZ CELLPHONE NO.: (0920)618-6282
NEGROS CELLPHONE NO.: (0920)651-2167
DAVAO TELEPHONE NOS.: (082)305-1711 - 12
DAVAO CELLPHONE NO.: (0920)912-8761

AUCTION MANAGER
THE PROPERTY FORUM

MANILA TELEPHONE NOS.: (02)534-9536 - (02)534-6954
(MON - SUN, 8:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.)

CALL CENTER: (02)633-1988 - 90
(MON - SUN, 10:30 A.M. - 8:30 P.M.)

CELLPHONE NO.: (0927)550-6401

UCPB

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of April 29, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	5,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	25	26	25	26	414,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	48	48	47.5	48	189,800
China Banking Corp.	660	670	660	670	1,860
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	2,000
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.64	0.66	0.64	0.66	1,370,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	46	47	46	47	66,200
International Exch. Bank	18	18	18	18	173,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31.5	31.5	31	31.5	441,500
Philippine National Bank	29	33	29	33	56,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	28	28	26.5	26.5	35,600
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Abacus Financial	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	20,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2440	2450	2440	2450	640
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	1	1	216,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1620	1645	1620	1645	1,250
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.5	131,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1	1.08	1	1.08	4,400,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	810	815	810	810	83,760
Ipeople Inc.	3.85	3.85	3.75	3.75	36,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.048	0.05	0.048	0.05	300,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	3,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3	3.1	3	3.1	3,029,000
Transpacific Broadcast	1.42	1.42	1.4	1.4	42,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1390	1390	1375	1380	294,260
Philweb Corp.	0.018	0.019	0.018	0.019	40,500,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	16	16.5	16	16.5	9,500
Manila Electric Co. B	22	22.25	22	22.25	126,200
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6	6.1	6	6.1	4,365,000
Petron Corp.	3.25	3.35	3.25	3.25	407,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.14	1.14	1.12	1.12	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.74	1.78	1.74	1.78	313,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	2,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	6.8	7.3	6.8	7.3	1,042,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	100,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	50,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.52	0.55	0.52	0.54	1,170,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	2.6	2.75	2.6	2.75	844,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	20,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	100,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.2	3.25	3.2	3.25	21,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	170,100
San Miguel Corp. A	57.5	58	57	58	107,200
San Miguel Corp. B	82.5	83	82	83	184,100
Vitarich Corp.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.28	1,760,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	6.6	6.9	6.6	6.9	10,130,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.25	4.4	4.25	4.4	84,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.03	0.032	0.03	0.031	47,700,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.88	1.94	1.86	1.94	599,000
APC Group Inc.	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.31	1,100,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.36	0.36	100,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	15,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.17	7,420,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.93	0.97	0.91	0.96	26,210,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.16	0.18	0.16	0.18	100,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.225	420,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.27	0.3	0.27	0.28	7,650,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.55	2.7	2.55	2.6	9,249,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.049	0.049	0.045	0.045	1,200,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	100,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	150,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	42.5	43.5	42.5	43	139,100
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	20,000
Global Equities, Inc.	0.08	0.0875	0.08	0.085	2,500,000
Ionics Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	10,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.3	3.35	3.3	3.35	165,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.22	1.28	1.22	1.28	2,603,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.36	0.33	0.35	113,080,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	200,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	50,000
SM Investments Corp.	250	250	249	250	1,220,350
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.21	0.22	0.205	0.22	4,860,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.135	0.2	0.135	0.2	80,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.24	0.26	0.24	0.26	210,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	10,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	4,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.36	1.46	1.36	1.46	40,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.8	0.91	0.8	0.91	110,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.1	0.105	0.1	0.105	2,180,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Bella Corp.	1.06	1.2	1.04	1.18	20,681,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	11	11	11	11	1,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	90,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.46	1.54	1.46	1.52	869,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	13.25	13.5	13	13	761,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.6	7.8	7.6	7.8	5,273,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.86	0.89	0.86	0.89	40,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.24	0.26	0.24	0.26	4,850,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.2	0.25	0.2	0.25	600,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.38	1,820,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.38	1.4	1.36	1.36	5,713,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.2	2.4	2.2	2.3	102,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.21	270,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	10,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	10,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.55	4.55	4.55	4.55	40,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	930,000
SM Development Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.62	1.62	104,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.5	7.3	7.4	10,560,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	15,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.8	30,000
Benguet Corp. A	9.2	9.4	9	9	117,000
Benguet Corp. B	29.5	32	29.5	32	26,300
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	40,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.35	0.35	0.33	0.33	4,090,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	7,500,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.021	0.022	0.021	0.021	81,200,000
Omico Corp.	0.007	0.0075	0.007	0.007	43,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	130,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.04	1.1	1.04	1.08	3,035,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	33	33.5	33	33	4,219,200
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	80,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0065	0.007	0.0065	0.007	20,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.15	0.17	0.15	0.165	13,260,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	2,993,250	48,270,000.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	321,922,270	1,075,876,385.00
PRO	30,322,000	129,544,320.00
Mining	158,387,500	148,342,540.00
OIL	113,260,000	2,755,450.00
GRAND TOTALS :	626,885,020	1,404,788,695.00
Bank & Fin Svc	545.08	UP 3.28
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,906.45	UP 30.62
PRO	704.18	UP 9.97
Mining	2,735.64	UP 12.90
OIL	2.56	UP 0.05
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	1,137.27	UP 12.49
Composite	1,854.63	UP 16.47

NO. OF ADVANCES: 63, NO. OF DECLINES: 15, NO. OF UNCHANGED: 39, NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 117, NO. OF TRADES: 3,166

CURRENCIES

May 1, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.775434	1.000000	54.3540
Japan	Yen	0.007312	0.009430	0.5126
United Kingdom	Pound	1.478210	1.906300	103.6150
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.099430	0.128225	6.9695
Switzerland	Franc	0.650096	0.838364	45.5684
Canada	Dollar	0.619703	0.799169	43.4380
Singapore	Dollar	0.471217	0.607681	33.0299
Australia	Dollar	0.604156	0.779120	42.3483
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.056964	2.652661	144.1827
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.206783	0.266667	14.4944
Brunei	Dollar	0.469789	0.605840	32.9298
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000081	0.000104	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.019567	0.025233	1.3715
UAE	Dirham	0.211134	0.272279	14.7995
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.289600	70.0949
Argentina	Peso	0.267161	0.344531	18.7266
Brazil	Real	0.307103	0.396040	21.5264
Denmark	Kroner	0.134304	0.173199	9.4141
India	Rupee	0.017753	0.022894	1.2444
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.204089	0.263193	14.3056
Mexico	New Peso	0.069531	0.089667	4.8738
New Zealand	Dollar	0.564691	0.728226	39.5820
Norway	Kroner	0.122907	0.158501	8.6152
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013048	0.016827	0.9146
South Africa	Rand	0.127025	0.163811	8.9038
Korea	Won	0.000774	0.000998	0.0542
Sweden	Kroner	0.109161	0.140774	7.6516
Syria	Pound	0.014938	0.019264	1.0471
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024758	0.031928	1.7354
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000361	0.000466	0.0253

On those who toil

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

WITH Labor Day upon us again, it's an opportune time to take stock of the current state of labor and employment in the Philippines. The authoritative source of information on this is the quarterly Labor Force Survey of the National Statistics Office, taken in January, April, July and October. In these surveys, a sample of 46,000 households from all over the country is queried on their employment circumstances in the immediate past week of the interview, in effect yielding a "snapshot" of the labor situation four times a year. These snapshots reflect variations across seasons of the year. For example, the April unemployment figures are always the highest because the new March graduates swell the ranks of the labor force who are (as yet) jobless then.

Concepts and definitions

To understand what the labor and employment statistics say, we have to know what they are measuring. To be considered part of the labor force, the base against which the employment and unemployment rates are measured, you have to be at least 15 years old and either working or actively seeking work. Thus, younger children, housewives or house-husbands, students, the disabled and the retired are not counted. Also counted among the labor force—and this is currently causing some controversy—are those who have simply given up looking for jobs ("discouraged job-seekers"), or are not looking because of temporary illness/disability, bad weather, pending job application or waiting for job interview. The government now considers them not available for work, and proposes to classify these people as "economically inactive" and therefore not part of the labor force, which is expected to lower significantly the measured unemployment rate.

If you have a job or worked for at least one hour in the past week, you're counted as employed. A worker is classified as underemployed if he/she wants to work more hours in his/her current job or in a new one. You may already be working full time, i.e. at least 40 hours a week, but if you want to work more (most likely because you still don't make enough), you are still underemployed. Those who are not working full time and wanting more hours of work are called the visibly underemployed.

Where we stand

So where do Filipino workers stand at the moment? The following four facts about Philippine labor may be gleaned from the January 2005 survey, the latest available.

Fact One: Jobless rate is rising. Unemployed workers made up 11.3 percent of the labor force last January, up from 11.0 percent in the same month last year. If you apply the government's new definition, the unemployment rate went up from 6.5 percent to 7.3 percent. Four million Filipino workers are out of work (the new definition would count only 2.5 million), up from 3.9 million last year (2.2 million by the new count). To put that into perspective, Thailand counts less than a million unemployed, with the jobless rate within 2-3 percent. In fact, we have the highest unemployment rate among the Asean-5 (Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Philippines). And while our neighbors' employment rates are improving, ours is worsening. What are we doing wrong?

Fact Two: Services jobs make up half the total. Many among us still think of our economy as agricultural and that agriculture is the biggest employer in the country; it is not. Services account for almost half (48.4 percent), while agriculture accounts for just over one-third (35.9 percent). The rest (15.7 percent) are jobs in the industrial sector, whose share is actually shrinking (from 16.0 percent a year ago). The biggest part of the services sector jobs are in wholesale and retail trade and motor vehicle repair (close to one-fifth of all jobs or 18.7 percent), while transport, storage and communication provides 8 percent of the jobs. And with the wide expectation of further rapid growth in the ICT-related jobs like call centers and business process outsourcing, the share of jobs coming from services is likely to climb further.

Fact Three: Unemployment is worst in Metro Manila. There is some element of irrationality in those of our people who leave the countryside and flock to Metro Manila expecting to find better opportunities there. If they only realize that the unemployment rate in the National Capital Region (17.4 percent) is way above the national average, they'd stay put. At the heels of Metro Manila is the Calabarzon region (Region 4-A) with a 13.9 percent jobless rate, followed by Ilocos (13.5 percent), Central Luzon (12.4 percent), and Central Visayas (12.3 percent). Joblessness in these regions are worse than the national average. Thus, jobseekers elsewhere would do well not to eye these regions for work opportunities. On the other hand, unemployment rates are lowest for the Zamboanga Peninsula (5.8 percent) and Cagayan Valley (6.9 percent).

Fact Four: Only half of the workers are wage and salary workers. In fact, the proportion of those who receive wages and salaries dropped from 52.9 percent last year to 50.9 percent last January. The rest are either self-employed workers (37.4 percent) or unpaid family workers (11.7 percent). This fact is significant in light of the persistent clamor for an increase in the minimum wage. This means that only about half of the work force will benefit from such a move. In fact, it is probably closer to one-third (i.e. roughly 10 million workers out of the 31.6 million employed), inasmuch as laborers and unskilled workers make up under one-third (31.2 percent) of the employed. Meanwhile, we run the risk of throwing even more of them out of work. If the goal is to uplift the lives of all Filipino workers, raising the minimum wage cannot be the only answer.

Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

More investments from China OKd

ADDITIONAL investments in glass manufacturing, healthcare and mining worth at least $625 million from China have been firmed up following the recent state visit to the Philippines of President Hu Jintao, according to Trade Secretary Juan B. Santos.

Santos said China's leading glass maker, Hebei Jingniu Group Co. Ltd, would push through with its planned $300-million manufacturing complex but that it was looking for an alternative site to the previously considered area in Bataan.

"The government is helping (Hebei) to look for a site in Batangas or elsewhere, where there would be better access to silica sand," the official said.

Heibi Jingniu had earlier expressed interest in putting up an industrial park of between 100 hectares and 130 hectares in Bataan, which would have the glass plant as anchor project.

The company's proposed industrial zone included two on-line production lines for coated float glass, which means that the coating could be put on the glass at the same time that the glass is being made.

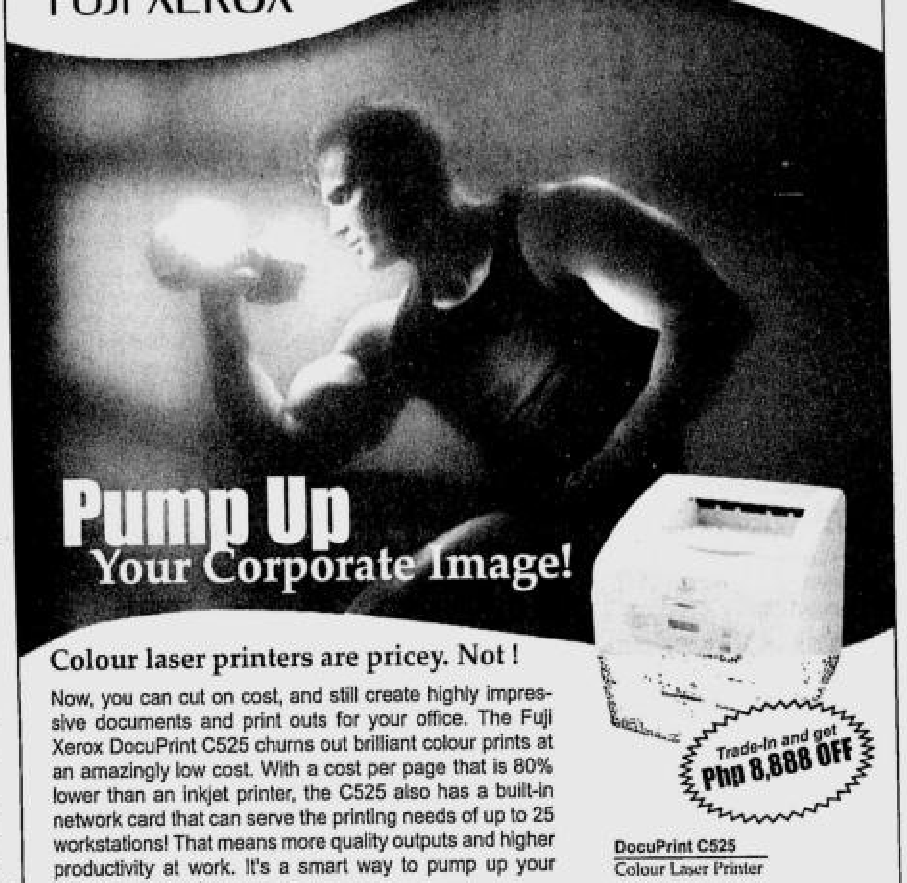
The business park would also have two high-technology rolling crystallite glass lines; one deep-processing line and another line that could combine the first two.

Hebei also wants to put up a 30,000-kilovolt-ampere power plant as well as a production line for plastic yacht, which would be the first in the country.

The project is seen to create a total of 15,000 jobs for direct and indirect employment, he added.

Also, Santos said a $25-million project might be realized sooner than Hebei's. This project is Shanghai Seeinglong Biotech Pharmaceutics Ltd.'s proposed pharmaceutical facility.

Last month, Special Envoy to China Jose B. Antonio said Seeinglong wanted to put up here a smaller version of its $100 million plant in Shanghai.



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Epson focuses on digital photo printing market for home, office

By Leo Magno

JAPANESE printer company Epson is refocusing its efforts on the digital photography market as it adjusts its strategy according to market trends.

Takao Mimura, Epson Inkjet Printer and Photo Product Operations chief executive, said the company's focus on the digital photography market means that it is no longer in competition with traditional PC printer products.

"We are more in competition now with Fujifilm and Kodak," said Mimura, referring to two of the biggest digital photography printer companies. Fujifilm and Kodak themselves have been forced to evolve from the traditional film space to digital photography.

Although Epson is not known primarily as a digital camera manufacturer, it does have expensive professional digital cameras which are not popular in the mass market. It also has partnerships with traditional digital camera makers like Olympus, and Mimura says they plan to continue collaborating with digital camera makers.

"Everyone except Canon," Mimura said, tongue-in-cheek. Canon is a bitter Epson rival in the printer space.

Epson's strategy also entails taking away the PC from the equation of digital photography printing. Its own cameras have direct-to-printer capabilities, while Epson printers have interfaces for direct-from-camera printing and accept various storage card formats. Some even have USB ports and Bluetooth for wireless printing straight from a camera.

Market statistics led Epson toward its new strategy. The company estimates that the use of inkjet photo paper has increased to one million square meters in 2004. Data from market research firm International Data Corp. show that there has been a sharp decline in traditional photo printing, and that market growth is being fueled by photo printers and multi-function inkjet printers.

On the professional printing level, a survey by Info Trend Pro Photographer shows that 43 percent of professional photographers use Epson printers for professional digital photo printing, followed by Fujifilm at 19 percent, HP at 9 percent, Kodak at 5 percent and Canon at 3 percent.

MIMURA

At the home front, Epson's new vision is to use the company's core technologies to offer various digital photo solutions and create a digital photo culture, paving the way toward Epson's home printing strategy.

Epson plans to go straight into your living rooms.

"In the future, you'll be able to print directly from a TV, a digital newspaper, magazines and catalogs on the Internet," Mimura said. "You can get a recipe from TV or get the details of a commercial and print that at home, or use the remote to print from the TV screen."

Much of this would depend on the rollout of digital TV broadcasts, and Mimura said Epson has been collaborating with Panasonic since last year regarding digital and high-definition TV.

"If it's an ad of a shampoo product, the specs of a new product on TV, it can be printed at home if it doesn't infringe on copyright," Mimura said. "On the other hand, with digital broadcasting it will be hard to secure rights to such content."

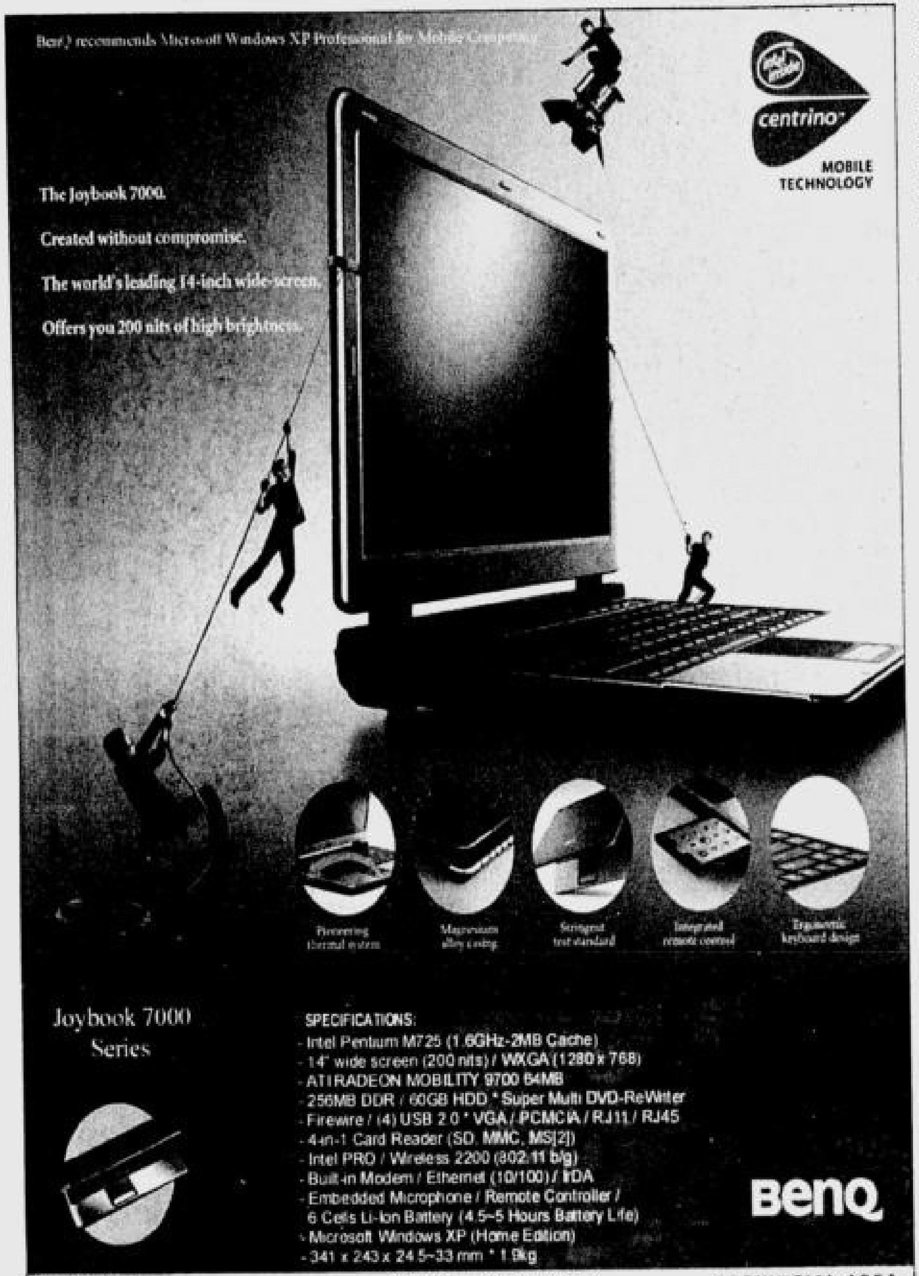
RP joins anti-spam crusade

THE PHILIPPINES has signed an Asia-wide multilateral memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Korea, Australia, China, Hong Kong and Singapore to develop cooperative mechanisms against worsening spam on the Internet.

The National Computer Center (NCC) and the Philippine Computer Emergency Response Team (PH-CERT) represented The Philippines in the MOU, which was initiated by the Korean Information and Security Agency (KIPA) and the Australian Communications Authority.

PH-CERT president Lito Averia said in an interview that this agreement would have each of the signatory countries sharing information on the technical and legal prevention of spam.

A. Villafania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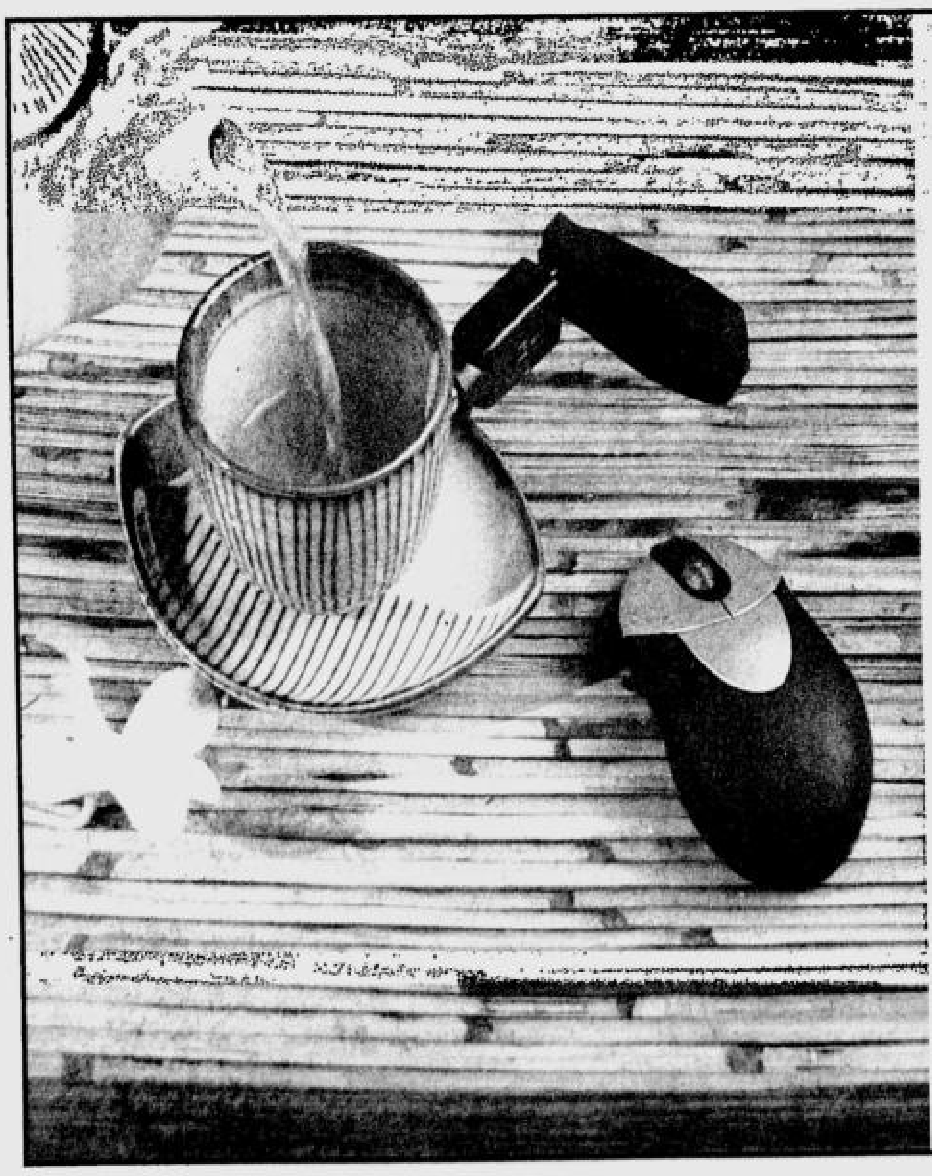
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PROVINCE OF CEBU
ECONOMIC ENTERPRISE COUNCIL
Office of the Cebu Provincial Governor
Cebu Capitol, Cebu City

NOTICE/INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS

Notice is hereby given that the Province of Cebu, through its Economic Enterprise Council (EEC), is intending to develop one of its properties for commercial use on a Build Transfer Operate (BTO) scheme, more particularly described as follows:

Lot No. 3-A-2 and a portion of Lot No. 3-A-1-B, containing a total area of 27,351 square meters, more or less, located in Banilad, Cebu City, previously occupied by the Cebu International School and Cebu Tennis Club.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

a. Rental rate of at least P35.00/sq.m. per month with an escalation rate of 5% per year, applicable on the sixth year of lease and every year thereafter;
b. Sales percentage share of ½ of 1% of gross sales or P200,000.00, whichever is higher, paid monthly to the Province of Cebu;
c. Investment cost for site development and structure construction not less than P250M, with building and site development plan subject to approval by the Economic Enterprise Council. Built up facility to be turned over upon completion to the Province of Cebu and to be fully insured with the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) in accordance with the appraisal of GSIS, in favor of Cebu Province. Premium shall be paid by the proponent;
d. Operation of facility and use of the property shall be for a maximum of twenty-five (25) years.

In relation thereto, any and all interested parties are hereby INVITED to submit their LETTERS OF INTENT and other required documents, which shall be the basis for the evaluation of qualified bidders, on or before May 10, 2005 to the EEC Secretariat, Office of the Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator, 3rd Floor, Cebu Capitol, Cebu City. Notice of Bidding shall be issued to qualified proponents.

For ready reference and guidance, copies of the titles, technical descriptions and sketch plan of the said lot are available, for a fee of P5,000.00 at the EEC Secretariat.

(Sgd.) **GWENDOLYN F. GARCIA**
Cebu Provincial Governor

(PDI – April 19, 25 & May 2, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF THE CEBU-MACTAN INTERCONNECTION PROJECT

ERC CASE NO. 2005-223MC

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION (TRANSCO),
Applicant.
x---------------------------------x

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given of the filing on April 27, 2005 by applicant National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO) of an application for application for approval of its Cebu-Mactan Interconnection Project.

The Commission has set the said application for hearing on May 9, 2005 at two o'clock in the afternoon (2:00 p.m.) at the Lapu-lapu City Council Session Hall, Lapu-lapu City.

All interested parties who may wish to comment on or oppose the said application should file their comments and/or oppositions on or before the date of hearing. Such parties who may wish to have the details of the application and who shall have manifested to the Commission their desire and intention to participate actively in the proceedings, may request that before the date of hearing, they be furnished with copies of the application by the applicant, which is hereby directed to furnish the parties making such request with copies of the application and its attachments. Likewise, any such interested party may examine the application and other pertinent records field with the Commission during the usual office hours.

WITNESS, the Honorable RODOLFO B. ALBANO, JR., Chairman, and the Honorable JESUS N. ALCORDO, RAUF A. TAN and ALEJANDRO Z. BARIN, Commissioners, Energy Regulatory Commission, this 27th day of April, 2005 at Pasig City.

(Sgd.) **MARIA TERESA A.R. CASTAÑEDA**
Executive Director III

(PDI - May 2, 2005)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region XIV (Serving ARMM), Cotabato City
Tel. Nos. 421-2407, Fax No. 421-2128

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) in Region XIV, Cotabato City, invites all interested **LABOR CONTRACTORS** to apply for eligibility & to bid for the Procurement of Handling Services in moving its 2005 NFA rice and palay at the following areas:

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LOT 3, CIC, Cotabato City	30,000	90,000.00
LOT 4, R & B, Upi	47,360	142,080.00
LOT 5, Philtrade V. S. Kudarat	180,000	540,000.00
LOT 6, RPA, Parang	164,640	464,040.00
	559,000	**1,647,120.00**
LANAO DEL SUR		
LOT 7, Marawi City	96,340	289,020.00
LOT 8, Malabang	23,360	70,080.00
	119,700	**359,100.00**
BASILAN		
LOT 9, GID, Isabela City	**282,200**	**846,600.00**
SULU		
LOT 10, GID, Jolo	**19,750**	**56,875.00**
TAWI-TAWI		
LOT 11, GID, Bongao	**78,000**	**234,000.00**
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The handling (Procurement/Dispersal/Distribution/In-Warehouse/Integrated Services, etc...) activity calls for the supply of labor force services only. Bids may be lot of choice, by lots (more than one lot) or the entire lot.
Schedule of Bidding Activities:

Particulars	Date/Time
1. Issuance of Application for Eligibility Requirements & Bid Documents	May 04-11, 2005
2. Submission of LOI	May 04-11, 2005
3. Pre-Bid Conference	May 25, 2005
4. Deadline of submission of eligibility requirements and bid forms	June 06, 2005 / Not later than 08:30 AM
5. Opening of Bids	June 06, 2005 at 09:00 AM

All interested parties in the bidding, must be duly registered labor contractor. Application forms for eligibility to bid, list of eligibility requirements and bid tender forms shall be issued upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP 2,000.00.

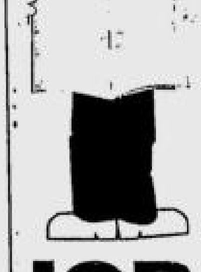
The venue for the pre-bid conference and bidding proper will be at NFA Conference Room, NFA RO XIV, ORC Compound, Gov. Gutierrez Ave., Cotabato City.

Bidding procedures shall be governed by RA 9184 and its IRR-A, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act and as provided in the instruction to bidders.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY/INFORMALITY OF THE BIDS RECEIVED AND TO ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH ARE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT.

(Sgd.) **OFELIA M. SERO**
Asst. Regional Manager and
Chairman, RBAC

(PDI - April 25 & May 2, 2005)



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18 March 2005, Friday, 1:30 p.m.
7th Floor TESDA Board Room, Office of the Chair
Taguig, Metro Manila

Resolution No. 2005-04

APPROVING AND PROMULGATING THE TRAINING REGULATIONS FOR TRANSPORT RAC SERVICING NCII AND RAC SERVICING NCI (WINDOW TYPE AIR-CONDITIONING/DOMESTIC REFRIGERATION)

WHEREAS, during the Standard Setting and Systems Development – TESDA Board and TESDA Secretariat Consultation Meeting held last 14 March 2005, the Training Regulations for Transport RAC Servicing NCII and RAC Servicing NCI (Window Type Air-Conditioning/Domestic Refrigeration) were deliberated and favorably recommended/endorsed to the TESDA Board for approval;

WHEREAS, the Technical Experts have endorsed for promulgation the following Training Regulations:
1. Transport RAC Servicing NCII
2. RAC Servicing NCI
(Window Type Air-Conditioning/Domestic Refrigeration)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board approves and promulgates the Training Regulations for Transport RAC Servicing, NCII and RAC Servicing NCI (Window Type Air-Conditioning/Domestic Refrigeration);

BE IT RESOLVED FINALLY, that copies of the Resolution and Training Regulations (TR) be published and disseminated to all concerned and shall be effective fifteen (15) days upon its publication. All training programs under these training regulations must comply with the requirements of the abovementioned TRs. Graduates of TVET courses covered by the abovementioned training regulations shall be required to undergo mandatory assessment under the national assessment and certification system.

Adopted this 18th March 2005.

(Sgd.) **MA. ADORINDA DE JESUS-FORRO**
Board Secretary VI

Attested by:

(Sgd.) **PATRICIA A. STO. TOMAS**
Chair, TESDA Board
Secretary, Department of Labor and Employment

Republic of the Philippines
TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
East Service Rd., South Superhighway, Taguig, Metro Manila

45th TESDA BOARD MEETING
18 March 2005, Friday, 1:30 p.m.
7th Floor TESDA Board Room, Office of the Chair
Taguig, Metro Manila

Resolution No. 2005-03

(page 1 of 2 pages)

Approving, Promulgating and Authorizing the Publication of the Reformatted Training Regulations for Deck Seafaring NCII, Engine Seafaring NCII, Commercial Cooking NCII, Food and Beverage Service NCII, Travel Service NCII, Tour Guiding Service NCII, Housekeeping NCII, Bartending NCII, Carpentry NCII, Masonry NCII, Dressmaking NCII, Tailoring NCII, Plumbing NCII, Building Wiring Installation NCII, Machining NCII and Computer Hardware Servicing NCII

WHEREAS, the TESDA Board promulgated Training Regulations for the following qualifications in the old format:

- **18th TESDA Board Meeting, 13 May 1998**
  1 Deck Seafaring NCII
  2. Engine Seafaring NCII
- **19th TESDA Board Meeting, 12 August 1998**
  3. Commercial Cooking NCII
  4. Food and Beverage Service NCII
  5. Travel Service NCII
  6. Tour Guiding Service NCII
  7. Housekeeping NCII
  8. Bartending NCII
- **22nd TESDA Board Meeting, 25 February 1999**
  9. Machining NCII
  10. Computer Hardware Servicing NCII
- **24th TESDA Board Meeting, 8 July 1999**
  11. Dressmaking NCII
  12. Tailoring NCII

Republic of the Philippines
TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
East Service Rd., South Superhighway, Taguig, Metro Manila

45th TESDA BOARD MEETING
18 March 2005, Friday, 1:30 p.m.
7th Floor TESDA Board Room, Office of the Chair
Taguig, Metro Manila

Resolution No. 2005-__

(page 2 of 2 pages)

- **25th TESDA Board Meeting, 23 September 1999**
  13. Carpentry NCII
  14. Masonry NCII
- **40th TESDA Board Meeting, 4 December 2003**
  15. Building Wiring Installation NCII
  16. Plumbing NCII

WHEREAS, the above mentioned Training Regulations have been formatted in accordance with the Framework adopted in Board Resolution No. 2005-13;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board approves and promulgates these training regulations as reformatted in accordance with the Framework adopted in Board Resolution No. 2004-13;

BE IT RESOLVED FINALLY, that copies of the Resolution and Training Regulations be published and disseminated to all concerned and shall be effective fifteen (15) days upon its publication. All training programs registered prior to this promulgation must comply with the requirements of the abovementioned TRs within one year after their publication. Graduates of TVET courses covered by the abovementioned training regulations shall be required to undergo mandatory assessment under the national assessment and certification system.

Adopted this 18th March 2005.

(Sgd.) **MA. ADORINDA DE JESUS-FORRO**
Board Secretary VI

Attested by:

(Sgd.) **PATRICIA A. STO. TOMAS**
Chair, TESDA Board
Secretary, Department of Labor and Employment

(PDI–April 30 & May 2, 2005)

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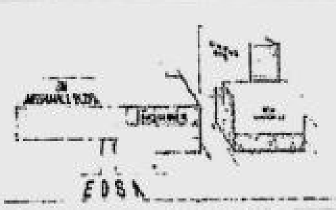

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INVITATION to PREQUALIFY for the PROVISION of MANAGEMENT SERVICES for ENGINEERING and FOOD SERVICES STORES

(Contract No. ADB/OAS-2005/025)

1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB), a multilateral development finance institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, invites interested companies to apply for prequalification to bid for the provision of management services for engineering and food services supplies/equipment stores at ADB Headquarters Building, located at No. 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines.
2. The Contractor shall manage, operate and maintain the engineering and food services supplies, tools and equipment, and other engineering stores in the ADB premises. The scope of services is provided in detail in the Work Performance Statement to be given to interested applicants.
3. Prequalification documents may be obtained from the Procurement and Contracts Administration Section, Institutional Services Division, Office of the Administrative Services, Room 1636 South, at the above address, from **3 to 6 May 2005** on any working day (9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), upon presentation of the receipt of payment in cash or manager's check of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Three Hundred (PhP300.00) at the ADB's Cash Room, Room G239W.
4. Applicants will be required to submit two copies (marked "Original" and "Copy") of applications for prequalification each in a sealed envelope, which must be delivered either by hand or by registered mail addressed to the Officer-in-Charge, Procurement and Contracts Administration Section, Room 1630 South, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Asian Development Bank, 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, Philippines, not later than **4:30 P.M., 10 May 2005**, and be clearly marked "Application to Prequalify for the Provision of Management Services for Engineering and Food Services Supplies/Equipment Stores".
5. Only prequalified bidders shall be invited to participate in the bidding exercise to be conducted by ADB. Bid documents will be issued to prequalified bidders from **18 to 19 May 2005.**
6. This Invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation of prequalification documents shall be borne solely by the applicant. ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications for prequalification.

(Sgd.) **CÉCILE L.H.F. GREGORY**
Director, Institutional Services Division
Office of Administrative Services

Asian Development Bank ADB
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(PDI - May 2 & 3, 2005)

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Ang Bangkong May Damdaming-Bayan
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INVITATION TO BUY

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites interested parties to buy through negotiated sale, a one (1) unit Beechcraft King Air E-90 Model 1976 with accessories and spare parts under the following terms and conditions:

1. The sale shall be on an As-Is-Where-Is basis;
2. Interested buyers shall submit a proposal indicating the mode of payment;
3. A deposit equivalent to 10% of the proposed purchase price shall be enclosed with the proposal;
4. The 10% deposit shall be in the form of a Cashier's/Manager's check payable to LANDBANK;
5. The deposit shall be applied as partial payment in case the offer is accepted by the bank and shall be forfeited in favor of the bank in case of failure to pay the balance within 20 calendar days after Notice of Award;
6. Interested buyer shall bear the cost of transfer fees/taxes and all other incidental expenses to transfer ownership, and,
7. LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids and/or accept proposals that the Committee may consider advantageous to the Bank.

All prospective buyers are enjoined to see the actual condition of the property at the Asian Aeronautics Hangar, Domestic Airport, Pasay City upon prior arrangement with Mr. Alan Morales or Ms. Yvette Albaniel through telephone numbers 405-7360 and 551-2200 locals 2323 and 7360.

Proposals shall be submitted to the Chairman, Head Office Committee on Bids and Awards (HOCBA), Land Bank of the Philippines through the Head, General Services Department located at 25th floor, LANDBANK Plaza, 1598 M.H. del Pilar cor. Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila.

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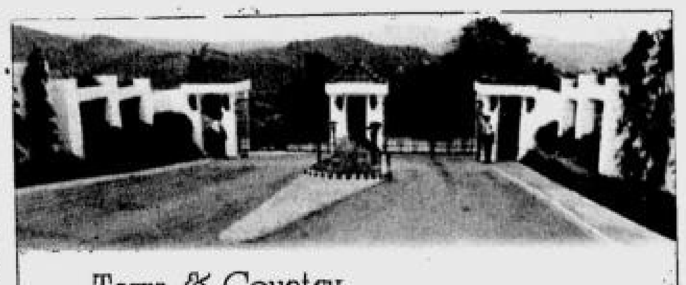

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(In compliance with R.A. 7041)

GRAFT INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OFFICER I Item Nos. OMBA-SPPO1-16-1998; OMBA-SPPO1-19-1998; SG-26; Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: Three (3) years of experience in the practice of law, counseling, investigation/prosecution of cases, hearings of administrative/criminal cases, legal research or other related works; Training; 24 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR).

Interested applicants should submit applications within twenty (20) working days from the date of this publication to the Administrative Division, at the above address, the following requirements pursuant to Office Order No. 49-05:

1. A letter stating the position applied for;
2. Duly accomplished Personal Data Sheet (Civil Service Commission Form 212);
3. 1"x1" picture (colored);
4. Bar Rating
5. Transcript of Records;
6. Certificates of Seminars/Training attended;
7. Service Records or Certificates from previous/present employers stating the positions assumed and corresponding actual duties and responsibilities (if applicable);
8. Performance Appraisal Reports for the last two rating periods (for current government employees only);
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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Butuan City Water District hereby invites suppliers and distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid, in accordance with I.R.R. of R.A. 9184, for the supply and delivery of Microlab Equipment, Water Treatment Equipment and Electro-Mechanical Equipment:

PACKAGE 1: MICROLAB EQUIPMENT

Item #	Qty	Items / Description
1.1	1 Unit	Autoclave, Top-Loading (Capacity: ≥ 50L)
1.2	1 Unit	UV Lamp, Portable, Light Weight & Germicidal
1.3	2 Units	Colony Counter, Pen Type
1.4	1 Unit	Desiccator Cabinet
1.5	1 Unit	Oven, Dryer / Sterilizer (Capacity: ≥ 111L)

Approved Budget: Php 1,100,000.00
Bidding Fee: Php 1,500.00

PACKAGE 2: WATER TREATMENT EQUIPMENT

2.1	3 Sets	Chlorine Regulator w/ Ejector, 100ppd
2.2	2 Units	Industrial Digital Weighing Scale (Capacity: ≥100Kg.)
2.3	2 Sets	Chlorine Comparator Kits, High Range

Approved Budget: Php 530,000.00
Bidding Fee: Php 1,000.00

PACKAGE 3: ELECTRO-MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT

3.1	1 Set	Centrifugal Pump Motor Set, 3HP, 220V, 1 Phase
3.2	1 Set	Submersible Pump Motor Set, 60HP, 460V, 3 Phase

Approved Budget: Php 500,000.00
Bidding Fee: Php 1,000.00

Specifications, details and bidding documents are available to interested applicants upon payment of a non-refundable fee as indicated per package from April 26, 2005 to May 9, 2005 at the BAC Secretariat during its business hours.

Pre-Bid Conference shall be held on May 18, 2005 at 9:00 AM BCWD Time at the Training Hall of BCWD Administration Building. Submission and opening of sealed bids shall follow on May 31, 2005 at the same time and venue.

Butuan City Water District reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or formality therein, to assume no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of their bids, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd) JORGE L. GUDUYO, C.E.
Chair, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-April 25 & May 2, 2005)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Gregorio F. Zuluota was extrajudicially settled among his heirs with waiver of rights as per Doc. No. 349, Page No. 71, Book No. 32, Series of 1997 of Notary Public Mario G. Ramos of Manila. (PDI-May 2, 9 & 16, 2005)

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FANNY PINTADO PEÑALOSA

Joined her Creator,
*her husband **Juan Bautista**, her son **James***
on April 30, 2005 at the age of 93.

Her children **Virginia & Henry Ramos, Mel & Rosemary Dinio, Eric & Eden, Mildred Yujuico, Edna, Glenn & Jenie,** her grandchildren **Yosef, Mylene, Marvin, Mark, Erwin, Stella, Sharon, Jeremy, Bryan, Twinkle Pearl, Margaret, Stephanie, Jellen** and **Germaine** request the readers to pray for her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Luna Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park) Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, May 4, 2005 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat Parañaque after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

"In peace I shall both lie down and sleep,
for you alone, Lord make me secure..."
Psalm 4:9

MA. CRISTINA ELAZEGUI-PUZON

(St. Theresa's College - Manila, HS '79)

now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace and goodness of the Lord
on 30th April 2005 at the age of 43.

Her beloved son **KEVIN DANIEL**; loving companion **JULIO**; parents **RODOLFO** and **AURORA ELAZEGUI**; brother **GEORGE**; sisters **CYNCH** and **TERI**; sister-in-law **MARINELA VALERO**; brothers-in-law **MANNY SANCHEZ** and **GERARD SENO**; nephew **GEOFFREY**; nieces **AUDREY, FRANCINE, BEA** and **ASHLEY**, her Cathay Pacific Airways family, class/batchmates De La Salle University Class '83, relatives and friends will terribly miss her. They request the pious reader to pray for eternal peace and repose of her soul.

She now lies in state at the Holy Family Chapel in Our Lady of Mt.Carmel Shrine Parish, New Manila, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Wednesday, 4th of May 2005 at the La Funeraria Paz Crematorium after the 7:00 a.m. Mass at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine Parish.

In lieu of flowers, any assistance for Kevin's welfare
will be preferred and deeply appreciated.

The Art Association of the Philippines (AAP)
announce with deep sorrow the demise
of its beloved Founder

Purita Kalaw Ledesma

who passed away peacefully on April 29, 2005
at the age of 91.

Together with her family,
all members of the AAP and artists everywhere
request everyone to join in praying
for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Capilla del Señor,
Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Funeral Mass will be held on Tuesday, May 03, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.
at the Sanctuario de San Antonio.

As requested by the family, in lieu of flowers,
donation to the Artists' Association of the
Philippines Foundation, Inc. will be appreciated.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate;
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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John 14:6

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William "Bill" Lupton

July 30, 1942 - May 1, 2005

A wonderful husband to **Linda Caedo**,
loving father to **Steve, Tom** (wife **Sandy Schultz**)
and **Christina.**

He lies in state at the Capilla de San Francisco, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

On Friday, May 6, the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Capilla de San Francisco will be followed by cremation and interment at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque.

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

It has come to the attention of the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) that certain personalities who let themselves out as having connection or affiliation with MIAA and using the names of its officials, have been approaching certain individuals or entities and promising them the prospect of concessions and other business contracts at the NAIA Terminal 3.

The public is informed that the MIAA has not authorized any individual or group of people to undertake such solicitations, whether formally or informally. The public is advised to be wary of the activities of these unscrupulous personalities.

The Management

(PDI-May 2 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
TONDO MEDICAL CENTER
Balut, Tondo, Manila
TMC-BID & AWARD COMMITTEE

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Tondo Medical Center hereby invites sealed written bid for the procurement and delivery of various Drugs/Medicine, X-ray, Dental Supplies and Laboratory reagents, Food Stuff, Medical, Kitchen, and other various equipment for the second semester CY 2005.

Interested applicants must submit pre-qualifications/supporting documents, payment of non-refundable fee for Drug/Medicine Php 1000.00 Medical/Surgical supply, Dental & Laboratory reagent Php 1000.00 and Food Stuff Php 800, Medical, Kitchen, and other various equipment Php 1,500. For the complete list of equipment and Bidding related documents, copies can be secured at the BAC Secretariat, Supply Office, Balut, Tondo, Manila.

The schedule of bidding activities are as follows:

	Issuance of bids	Pre-bid Conference	Submission of Bids	Opening of Bids	Approved Budget	Funding
Drugs & Medicine	May 10-27 2005	May 31, 2005 10.00 AM	June 21, 2005 8:00 - 10.00 AM	June 21, 2005 10:30 AM	Php 2,800,000.00	Regular Fund, Revolving Fund & Income
Medical/Surgical Supplies, X-ray, Dental & Lab. Reagents	May 10-27, 2005	June 1, 2005 10:00 AM	June 22, 2005 8:00 - 10:00 AM	June 22, 2005 10:30 AM	Php 4,000,000.00	
Food Stuff	May 10-27, 2005	May 30, 2005 10:00 AM	June 20, 2005 8:00 - 10:00 AM	June 20, 2005 10:30 AM	Php 1,418,000.00	
Medical kitchen & other various equipment	May 10-27, 2005	June 2, 2005 10:00 AM	June 23, 2005 8.00 - 10:00 AM	June 23, 2005 10:30 AM	Php 5,551,058.00	

All particulars relative to the eligibility process, bid bond, performance bond, pre-bid conference, bid evaluation and award to contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRRA) of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

All activities shall be held at Tondo Medical Center, Conference Room, Balut, Tondo, Manila unless otherwise announced.

For further details, please contact Secretariat, Tondo Medical Center at Telephone Nos. 251-8421 to 23 loc. 207.

TONDO MEDICAL CENTER BAC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY BID, TO ANNUL THE BIDDING PROCESS, REJECT ALL BIDS AT ANYTIME PRIOR TO THE AWARD OF THE CONTRACT, WITHOUT THEREBY INCURRING ANY LIABILITY TO THE AFFECTED BIDDERS OR ANY OBLIGATION TO INFORM THE AFFECTED BIDDER/BIDDERS ON THE REASONS FOR DOING SO TMC-BAC ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION TO COMPENSATE OR TO INDEMNIFY BIDS NOR DEEM IT GUARANTEED THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.

(Sgd.) VICTOR J. DELA CRUZ, MD, CESO IV
Medical Center Chief II

(PDI - May 2 & 9, 2005)

BUSINESS

Maynilad creditors OK rehab plan revisions

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE CREDITORS of Maynilad Water Services Inc. have accepted the final revisions to the rehabilitation plan aimed at providing the debt-ridden West service zone concessionaire with its second wind.

Appointed court receiver Rosario Bernaldo told the INQUIRER in an interview last Friday that the creditors agreed that the new plan would significantly improve the financial and operational viability of Maynilad.

According to the revised plan submitted last Thursday to Branch 90 of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court, Maynilad's majority shareholder, Benpres Holdings Inc. (BHI) of the Lopez group, will formally exit and divest all its shares in the company valued at $22.7 million.

Shares of BHI's French partner, Ondeo Philippines (formerly known as Suez Lyonnais des Eaux), would also be reduced to 13 percent.

Foreign and local creditors of Maynilad, except for the Development Bank of the Philippines, which was still waiting for the go-ahead from its Board of Directors, approved the plan last week.

The water utility serves more than eight million customers in the west zone covering Manila and neighboring cities.

The MWSS tops Maynilad's list of creditors with an exposure of P8 billion, representing unpaid concession fees.

The other creditors accounting for the remaining P10 billion include Credit Agricole, Indosuez Merchant Bank Asia Ltd., Citibank NA, Barclays Bank plc and BNP Paribas, Equitable-PCI Bank, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. and the state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines.

Bernaldo said that some 84 percent of Maynilad's shares would be up for subscription by the MWSS, which favored a debt-for-equity conversion.

The banks, on the other hand,. preferred to be paid in cash.

"It does not mean that MWSS is the new owner, (but) during the period of capital restructuring it must provide the needed fresh capital and subscribe to these shares," she explained.

As the biggest creditor, MWSS will also receive payments for Maynilad's deferred concession fees until 2010.

Maynilad has attracted the interest of investors willing to acquire the debt-ridden firm, which include DMCI Holdings Inc. and a consortium led by the ING Barings Group.

The ING-led consortium include the Ayala group and International Finance Corp., the World Bank's private investment arm.

Manila Water Co. Inc., a subsidiary of the Ayala group, holds the east water distribution concession.

Maynilad creditors and shareholders have already agreed to allow private investors to acquire majority control of the company, instead of reverting it

Maynilad creditors and shareholders have earlier agreed to allow private investors to acquire a majority stake in the company, instead of reverting it to government control.

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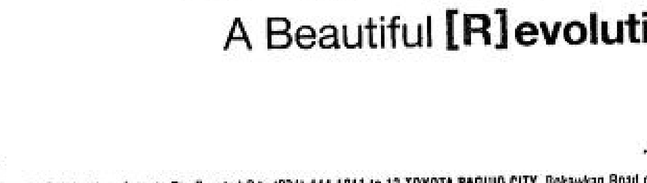

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BELIEVE AND INSPIRE MOVEMENT

Championing entrepreneurship

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

BELIEVE and inspire.

This is the new battle cry of Jose Ma A. Concepcion III, presidential consultant for entrepreneurship, to get more people involved in the movement to increase the number of Filipinos running their own businesses.

"Small entrepreneurs are today's wealth creators, and tomorrow's big companies," Concepcion said in a speech during the recently concluded conference of the United Nations Development Program. "For an economy to thrive, we must give rise to more of them."

For Concepcion, increasing the number of wealth creators will entail the launch of a non-political, non-profit national movement, called "Believe and Inspire," in July.

Last Tuesday, Concepcion presented his plan to the Cabinet during a meeting in Malacañang. He said that he would soon recruit successful entrepreneurs, advocates and organizations who would collectively champion the spirit and culture of entrepreneurship.

Center for entrepreneurship

Concepcion has tasked entrepreneur Ana Maria Periquet, who designs and sells her own line of furniture and home accessories, to be the movement's lead advocate.

He has likewise taken steps to set up a Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship.

The Center's primary goals are to:

- Popularize and demystify the prerequisites of entrepreneurial success;
- Enhance the curriculum and teaching skills in entrepreneurship education in all levels;
- Affiliate with the academe for pioneering studies and thought leadership in the entrepreneurship field;
- Create satellite centers of excellence in entrepreneurship nationwide; and,
- Encourage and popularize business plan competitions.

Concepcion is personally talking to the country's most accomplished entrepreneurs to become the Center's founding trustees, as he strongly believes in the power of entrepreneurship to power the Philippines forward.

Indeed, small and medium enterprises are carrying the economy on their shoulders, not the large conglomerates and multinational companies that usually take all the credit.

Concepcion said it was "no exaggeration" that over 95 percent of all employers are small and medium-sized companies with an asset size of less than P100 million.

SMEs also generate over 80 percent of new jobs, and account for over half of the private sector payroll.

"By and large, it is small business owners who have kept the economy humming along," Concepcion said.

CONCEPCION

Pro bono work

And as part of his pro bono work as presidential adviser, Concepcion is determined to further increase their number and fulfill his mission to "fire up the culture and spirit of enterprise among my countrymen."

He, however, said that these plans would come to fruition only if Filipinos first believe in their country—something Concepcion felt he could not stress enough.

The concept may sound obvious, but Concepcion, speaking on the sidelines of the UNDP conference entitled "Unleashing Entrepreneurship: Making Business Work For The Poor," feels that Filipinos are losing their faith in what the country can accomplish, and have become increasingly pessimistic.

He said it was this attitude that he wanted to change under his term as entrepreneurship czar, through his "Believe and Inspire" campaign.

As Concepcion said in his speech, entrepreneurship starts with believing in your country, in yourself and in your idea.

"If you truly believe that your idea can turn into a successful enterprise, you will have a stronger sense of purpose and responsibility to see it through," Concepcion said. "This belief should progress into inspiring others, infecting them with the same optimism and determination. This is the essence of the movement."

The Center is envisioned to be the primary local institution for promoting Filipino entrepreneurship. It will be funded by the private sector and expected to start operations within the year.

Concepcion has tapped businessman Federico Gonzalez to become the center's first executive director.

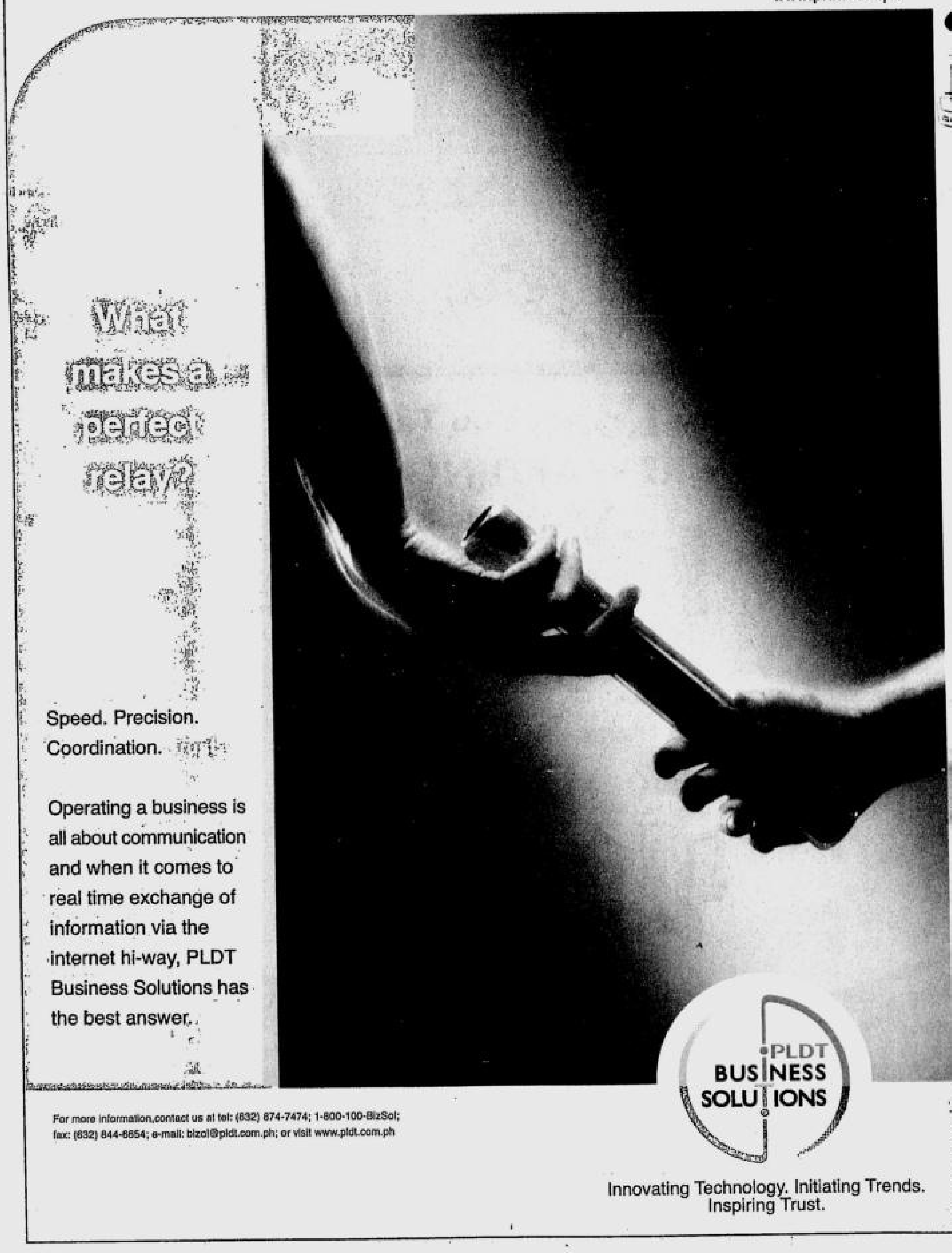
"The Center will focus on improving how entrepreneurship is taught in our schools," he said. "It will foster a culture of enterprise and provide a marketplace for innovation and best practices. In other words, we want the Center to spawn competitive Filipino entrepreneurs."

Concepcion is focusing on popularizing business plan competitions to get those creative juices flowing and draw out the entrepreneurial spirit of the students.

Business plan competitions

"When business plan competitions be-

CHAMPIONING/ B2-6



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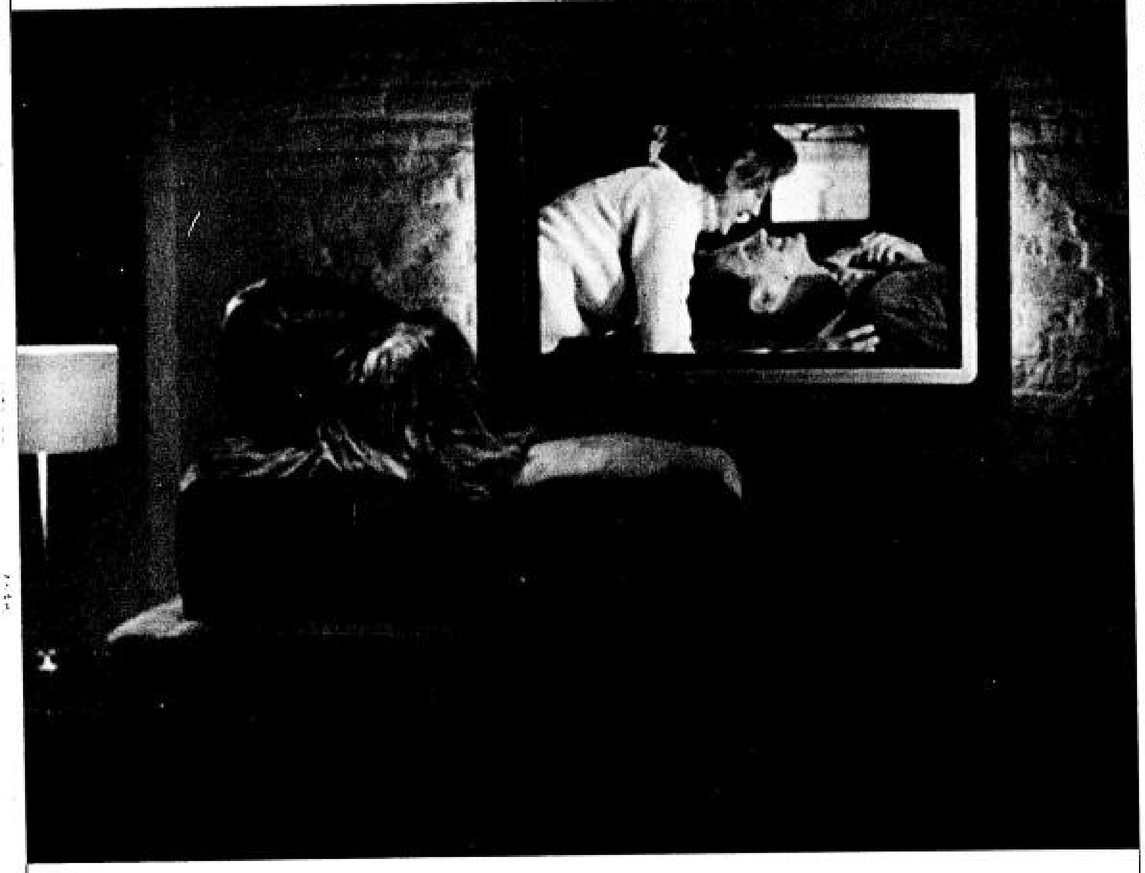

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Security or insecurity?

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Lt. Gen. Jaime S. delos Santos (Ret)

IN REACTION to the presentation of AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu, I am tempted to share my views on national security as a bona fide soldier, because of my extensive experience in the military in various capacities and my long exposure to intelligence work.

However, I am now a civilian, performing civilian functions in a corporate setting. Therefore, the views on national security that I will share with you will encompass the national and the business dimensions, and I will end my reaction to General Abu's speech with a personal note on what needs to be done.

General Abu has said a while ago that the threats to national security emanate from three sources, namely the CPP/NPA, the secessionist movement in southern Philippines and the terrorist elements to include the Abu Sayyaf, a local terrorist band undertaking kidnap-for-ransom activities in the south, and Jemaah Islamiyah, an international terrorist organization which is believed to have set up its cells here in the Philippines.

These threats will continue to haunt the country for as long as our people suffer from unabated poverty due to worsening economic conditions; the decline in the moral fiber which affected not only the bureaucracy but sad to say, even the AFP itself and the lack of a sense of nationhood among our people.

Let me emphasize that we, as members of the Management Association of the Philippines, have a role to play in maintaining national security.

The concept of national security does not only concern protecting the country from internal and external threats, which is the primordial consideration of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police.

Every Filipino has a personal stake in national security and a responsibility to himself, to other Filipinos and to the nation to sustain it and to contribute his share in maintaining national security.

Why do I emphasize the need for us Filipinos to intensify our sense of nationhood? Because I find it ironic that while we exert all efforts to entice foreign investors to come to the Philippines to bring in much needed capital to push our economy forward, the moneyed Filipino businessmen here in the country are investing elsewhere which strongly indicates the lack of trust and confidence in our own political and economic infrastructure.

National security encompasses several elements aside from protecting the country's territorial integrity. National security means economic growth—allowing business to thrive under favorable investment conditions. It means moral, spiritual strength and the cultural cohesion of Filipinos as a united people with one goal—the nation's survival and the dignified existence of everyone, regardless of creed, economic status, age and gender.

It means political stability—where the government, labor and business are working hand in hand to ensure that peace and order is sustained and good governance becomes a practice, not just a dream.

National security means environmental protection and development—not just awareness and paying lip service to our country's need to protect our natural resources, but actively participating in ensuring that we replace what has been lost in the environment, in making sure that we do not irresponsibly add to polluting what used to be pristine areas all over the country.

At the same time, national security is keeping a well-balanced international image that will sustain our attraction as an investments target.

We are indeed a blessed country and we would like to keep it that way.

Moreover, I would like to just briefly mention that recent events such as the Dec. 26 tsunami catastrophe, which brought havoc of frightening proportions to at least six countries in Asia alone with over 200,000 victims as of last count, have heightened the level of awareness of people worldwide to the importance of security, specifically focusing cur minds on what is now known as human security.

The tsunami disaster brought to fore the critical dimension of human security and the accompanying need to focus on human development. Still, these are merely drops in the bucket of what truly encompasses national security.

Lastly, my thoughts on what needs to be done.

The lessons of today's exercise indicate that we, as members of a prestigious organization—the MAP, have our own responsibilities toward maintaining national security in order to push for national development, which will in turn redound to the growth of the economy in general and of business, in particular.

MAP, through its committee on security concerns, can initiate discussions on national security issues that can impact on business.

I have recommended the conduct of regular briefings on the national security situation so that business is updated on developments that can adversely affect business operations, and at the same time allow us to transform a crisis situation into an opportunity to improve the business climate in the Philippines.

(The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. This contains the reaction delivered by the author during the 27 April 2005 MAP general membership meeting. The author is former deputy chief of staff of the AFP and former commanding general of the Philippine Army. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph.)

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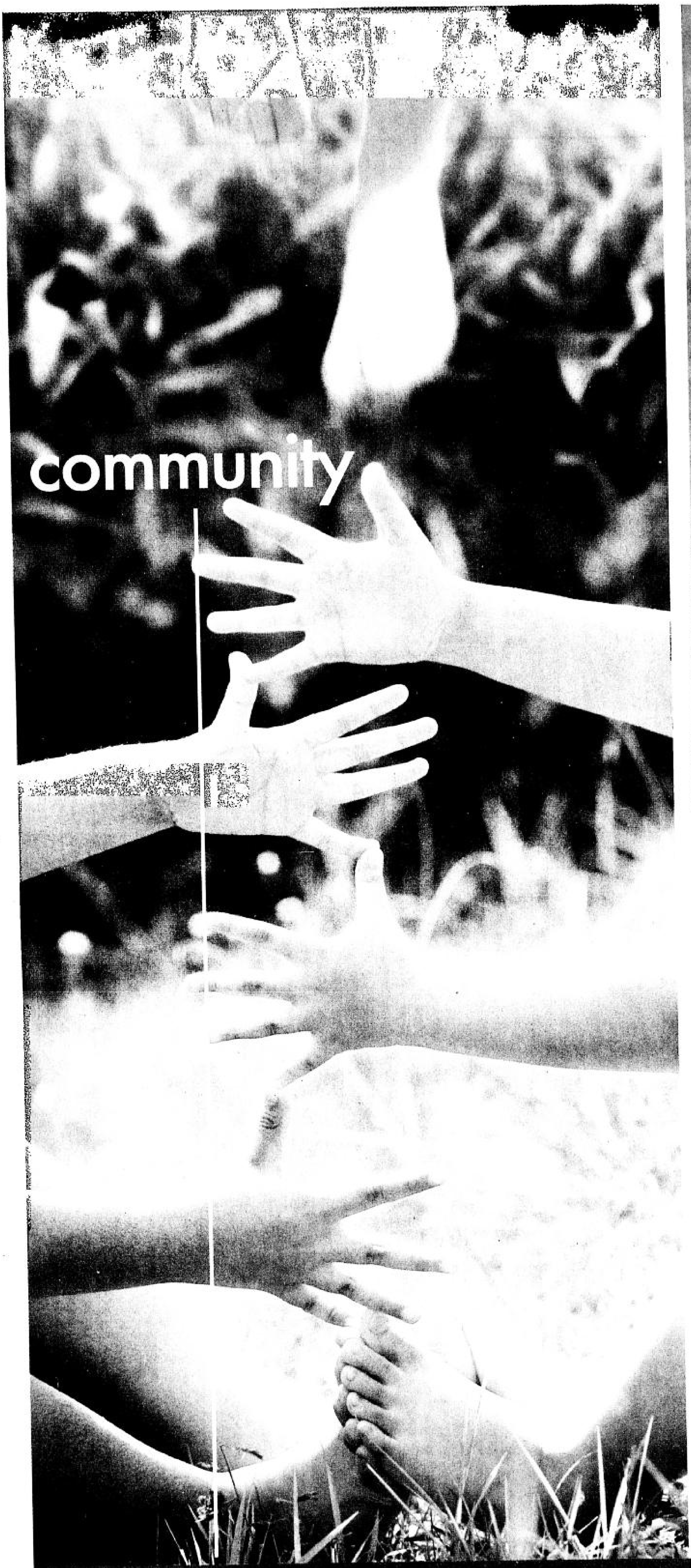

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People, Events & Products

Food & Beverage ManuTech slated; Grundfos Pumps participates

THE TRAINING Institute of Manila Engineers (Time) Foundation, in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Tourism, the Philippine Food Processors and Exporters Organization (Philfoodex), and the Food Caterers' Association of the Philippines (FCAP) is set to stage The 7th International Food & Beverage Manufacturing and Technologies Expo (F&B ManuTech) this June 22 to 24 at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) Forum.

Being the only engineering-specific trade fair in the country, it is designed to take advantage of the increasing demand for high quality equipment by allowing manufacturers and distributors to showcase their products during the three-day event. Exhibitors set to join the expo are the major players in the F & B business community and its related industries.

One such company, Grundfos Pumps (Philippines) Inc, one of the world's leading pump manufacturers, signed up with the F&B ManuTech, being the only trade exhibit that caters specifically to the manufacturing and technologies sub-sectors of the growing food and beverage industries in the country. Grundfos will present its latest product innovations as well as highly relevant seminars together with other key industry players.

The event is expected to draw in more than 20,000 visitors, including executives from R&D, purchasing, production, marketing and sales, quality assurance and control, legislation, distribution/logistics and general management from big food manufacturers, restaurants, fastfood chains, bars and grills, hotels and resorts and other related industries.

The 7th International F&B ManuTech is presented by the Philippine Daily Inquirer, San Miguel Beer, Unilever Philippines, Purefoods Hormel and Coca-Cola. For information on how to take part in the F&B ManuTech Expo, Cut Unlimited may be reached at 687-0654, 687-0604, or e-mail cut@pacific.net.ph, or visit www.foodandbeverage-manutech.com.

SHOWN during the signing of the contract of participation were (from left) Grundfos country manager Jocelyn Cabalfin; Kazis Asia Pacific business manager Gerard Bierdrager; project chair Cesar L. Lim; Grundfos assistant area manager Jun Tambis and F&B ManuTech account manager Aprille Robles.

KIDS enjoy the company of Kellogg's Tony the Tiger.

Kellogg's, 20th Century Fox premiere 'Robots'

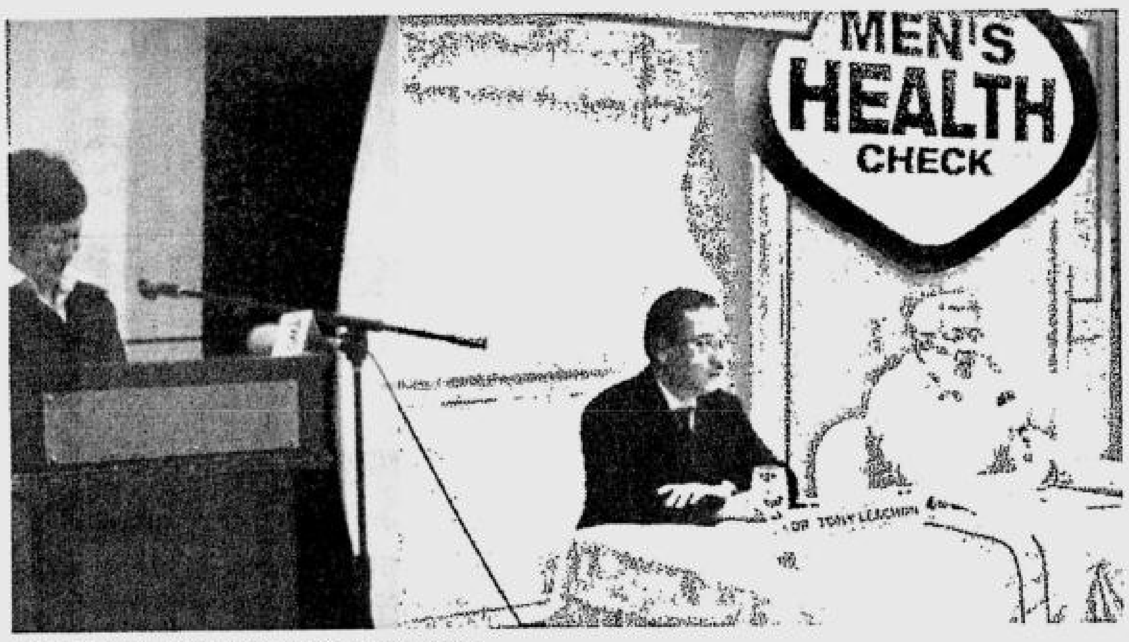
KELLOGG'S Frosties, in cooperation with 20th Century Fox, brought the whole family together March 12 at Glorietta 4 Cinema for the movie premiere of "Robots".

The movie house was transformed into a "family day fair" featuring Studio 23's Drew Arellano who conducted fun games and raffle for the children and their parents, which brightened the whole event.

The kids enjoyed the Kellogg's cereal eating contest that supercharged them the whole day. They also had a good chance to bond with their mommies and daddies during the tower-making contest. Children were also given a chance to meet their favorite Tony the Tiger character for photo-ops before, during and after the games. Aside from all these exciting games, they were given fabulous watches, cute school bags and other cool items from Kellogg's Frosties.

Before the end of the program, supercharged Drew shared with parents the most important benefit from eating Kellogg's cereals and the reason it was more nutritious compared to others-Kellogg's is the only brand of cereals made out of real corn. For this, Kellogg's should be served to the whole family, especially for those with a hectic and active daily lifestyle.

Attendees were composed of winners from the on-air game promotions of radio stations Jam 88.3 and Magic 89.9.



PFIZER'S MHC PROGRAM LAUNCHED

Dr. Jose Albert C. Reyes III, president of the Philippine Society for the Study of Aging Male, answers questions from members of the media during the recent launch of the Men's Health Check (MHC) program. MHC is one of Pfizer's patient education programs, which aims to increase awareness on men's health and encourages men to see their doctors regularly. Also shown are Dr. Anthony Leachon, Pfizer medical and regulatory affairs director, and Karen Villanueva, Pfizer corporate affairs director.

Cool summer at The Linden

DON'T sweat out the summer! Come and check out the cool summer treats that The Linden Suites has in store for guests. Avail yourself of the hotel's summer promo rate of P3,000++ for an executive room with breakfast and get a free summer cooler treat from Monsoon, the hotel's in-house bar and restaurant.

The Linden Suites has everything you're looking for this summer-and more. Shake off the summer heat with a refreshing dip in the hotel's indoor pool or the Jacuzzi. Get an invigorating Shiatsu or Swedish massage, cleanse your pores and rid your body of toxins at the Sauna, or exercise and tone your body at the Health Club and Gym.

Plus, get a chance to win P5,000 worth of Mossimo gift certificates. Be cool and look cool!

Feel the distinction of being a Linden Suites guest. Come and experience the difference at The Linden Suites.

This Special Summer Offer is valid until May 31. For inquiries and reservations, call 638-7878 or log on to www.lindensuites.com.

REFRESHING wade at the indoor pool

PERMANENT WEIGHT LOSS WITH MINIMAL INVASIVE SURGERY

World record holder for laparoscopic surgeries (26,000 cases) and honorary laparoscopic surgeon to the President of India, Dr. Pradeep Chowbey (right) is shown with Bom Chan (left, holding the LapBand Adjustable Gastric Banding) in an Asian Surgery Congress held recently at the Edsa Shangri-la Hotel. The LapBand System is the only US Food and Drug Administration-approved adjustable gastric banding with 100-percent market share in the United States and 80 percent internationally. Named by the FDA Office of Device Evaluation as "one of the significant device breakthroughs" with more than 150,000 procedures performed worldwide, the LapBand System is prescribed by the leading international bariatric surgeons as the preferred choice for the surgical treatment of morbid obesity. Performed laparoscopically (keyhole surgery), the LapBand is the safest and least invasive surgical option that offers seriously overweight patients steady and healthy weight loss. For more information on the LapBand, log on to www.aemed.ph or e-mail bom@aemed.ph. Interested parties can also call the LapBand/BIB hotline at 898-1365 or text 0917-LAPBAND (527-2263).

MTC ACADEMY OPENS IN BATANGAS

MTC Academy, the first and only Tesda-accredited Medical Transcription school in the country, opens its branch in Batangas City. Shown during the open house and inauguration are (from left) MTC administrator Dante Dimaano, guest of honor Rep. Dodo Mandanas, officiating priest Fr. Boy Vergara and guest Councilor Vic Tolentino. Standing are siblings Dr. Jo Beloso-de los Reyes, Weng Beloso and Dr. Ferdie Beloso of MTC-Batangas. Enrollment is ongoing. Classes start May 23. MTC Academy is located in Dimaano Center, 31 MH del Pilar Street, Batangas City. For inquiries, call (043)722-2623, 300-7447 or 980-6985.

Product FILES

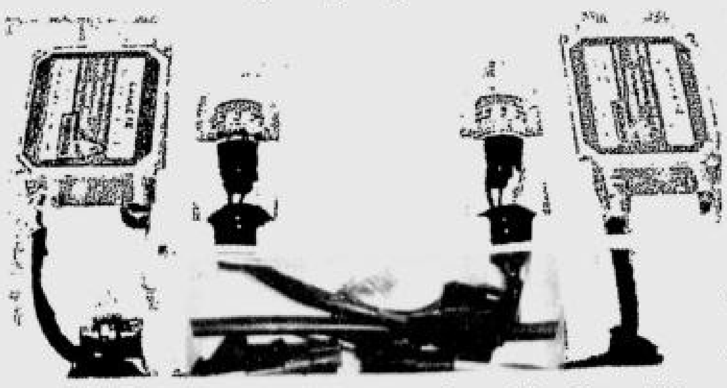
Increase level of safety with Xenon

THERE are several types of quality auto light bulbs available on the market today. Which brand of bulbs should you choose?

Xenon or High Intensity Discharge (HID) lamps is one of the greatest innovations in lighting technology. Xenon technology offers longer bulb life, powerful beam of white light, cool burning and no harmful UV rays.

Unlike other bulbs that are extremely hot to the touch, Xenon Bulbs are not. Halogen bulbs burn up to 500 degrees Fahrenheit, which is extremely hot and can cause serious harm to unprotected skin.

Since older cars were designed with frosted tungsten sealed beam headlights. These tungsten lamps gradually lose the brightness of their light output. If you can't find a replacement sealed beam headlight, try converting them to use Halogen or Xenon replacement bulbs to improve nighttime driving and increase the level of safety in various road and weather conditions. HID kits are available for cars, SUVs AUVs and sport bikes. Xenon HID systems are exclusively distributed by Hummer Philippines. For inquiries, call 713-1998, 0917-8307832, or visit the Xenon showroom at 318 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City or log on to www.xenon-bulbs.com.



Bits & Clips

Emotional intelligence for leaders

EQ, MORE than IQ or technical expertise, is the most important determinant of leadership success. This rare seminar could be the turning point of your leadership or those leaders under you. Discover the core competencies of emotional intelligence for leaders, including Edward de Bono's "Six Thinking Hats", on May 4, 1 to 5 p.m., at Holiday Inn Galleria Manila, Ortigas. The resource speaker for this seminar is Dennis Evangelista, who has conducted numerous leadership programs for the top management teams of both government and private sectors. This seminar is sponsored by Porter and Miles Inc, a premier training company on business, management, marketing, sales and human resource development. Call Mercy at 638-7719/20 for more information.

'Beauty and Brent'

WATSONS, Your Personal Store, continues to please its customers with the launch of its latest campaign, "Beauty & Brent" (B&B). Ten makeover packages worth P100,000 each and worth over a million pesos will be given away. The promo is open to all Watsons customers and Addict Mobile Prepaid (AMP) subscribers until June 1. A minimum purchase worth P150 at any Watsons outlet nationwide entitles a customer to qualify for the raffle. Registration is by simply typing WATSONS REG amount purchased/tape receipt no./full name/address/gender/age and sending it to 386. On the week of June 6, 10 winners will be drawn and granted individual hair, skin and fashion makeovers. To complete the one-of-a-kind summer experience, Brent Javier, the country's most sought-after model. will choose one out of the 10 makeover recipients to go out with him on an all-expenses-paid date. For more details, text WATSONS and send to 386.

Burlington's badminton clinic

LEARN the proper way to play badminton this summer by enrolling at the recently launched 2005 Burlington Summer Badminton Clinic. The leading socks manufacturer is embarking on the badminton project to fill the need of giving lessons to beginners who are interested in the latest sports craze. At the Burlington event, badminton enthusiasts from ages 5 and above will be taught the correct fundamentals. Leading the impressive list of trainors are Coach Owen Lopez, a former national youth champion, RP Men's team member and present head coach of the DLSU UAAP squad. Venue of the training will be the Badminton Central Makati courts at 1161 Chino Roces Avenue, San Antonio, Makati. The second module has been set on May 2 for MWF and May 3 for TThS. Call Coco Repollo or Ced Simon at 890-5254 or 892-2447.

New CEO maps out new goals for electronics firm

MANAGEMENT STYLES

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

WHAT strikes you about executives of Samsung Electronics is their fierce loyalty to the company. On the average they stay with the firm over 20 years.

Samsung Electtronics Phils Corp.'s new president and CEO Hyuck Jae Shim is no exception. He says he wants to stay with Samsung until he retires. He has been with the firm for 22 years, having joined the Korean company as a fresh college graduate.

Shim is not new to the Philippine. He was assigned here in 1993 when Samsung only had a dealership here. He left in 1998 and notices the changes in Metro Manila from the last time he was here in 1998. After Manila, he was made head of the firm's marketing division in China where he was faced with the challenge of bringing Samsung Electronics into the digital revolution.

Back in Manila, Shim notices the changes.

"There is the MRT now and new buildings," he notes.

More important to his new position, he points out "there is bigger business now, much, much better than before."

The challenge for Shim now is to expand Samsung's market for consumer electronics, such as refs, airconditioners, TVs, in the Philippines which only contribute some 10 percent to the firm's revenues.

His predecesor Sang Youl Eom may have done too good a job in promoting Samsung mobile phones in the Philippines as it accounts for 60 percent of the firm's local revenues.

Shim's goal is for each of Samsung's division—mobile phones, IT (monitors, printers, MP3 players), and consumer electronics—contribute an equal share to the company's coffers.

"The portion of the consumer electronics division is too low. It should be more than 10 percent. At 30 percent, I hope so," he says.

To achieve this, Shim will use advertising and a streamlining of its distribution channels.

"Nationwide, we have many, many distribution channels. We can't manage so many dealers. We have to focus on strategic locations. We have to do groupings. We have to minimize our accounts and focus on the big dealers," he states.

Samsung he says has over 500 dealers nationwide. "We have to think efficiency and effectiveness."

SHIM is back in the Philippines

Samsung's electronics market are principally geared toward the A, B market as their prices are relatively higher than the market averages.

Shim defends its "value for money. We will stay in the premium market."

His personal goal is to achieve sales of $350 million for the company this year. He says this is higher than the target set by the head office. Last year's sales reached $230 million.

Shim describes his management style as "not easy, not difficult."

He is some kind of workaholic though, coming to the office on Saturdays to check on the sales reports.

He likes going around his people's desks and asking them how they performed. Of course he admits this style can cause stress to his people.

"If their performance is good it is ok. If it is bad it will cause them stress. If their performance is bad, I would like to know why. Also with good performance they should know why."

"Communication is important. If there is no communication, everybody will be misunderstood," Shim says. He makes sure his division heads regularly go to his office "even just to say hi."

But every quarter he meets with the 90 or so staff of Samsung Philippines.

While he works 12 hours a day, Shim makes sure he has leisure activities which include time with the family and golf and swimming. He has one daughter, a 21-year-old who is now in Korea. His wife arrived in Manila recently.

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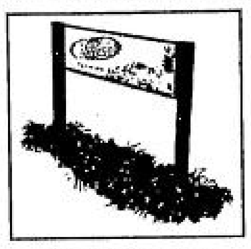
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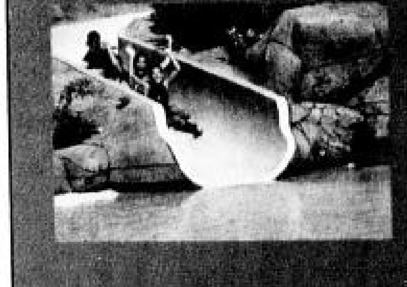
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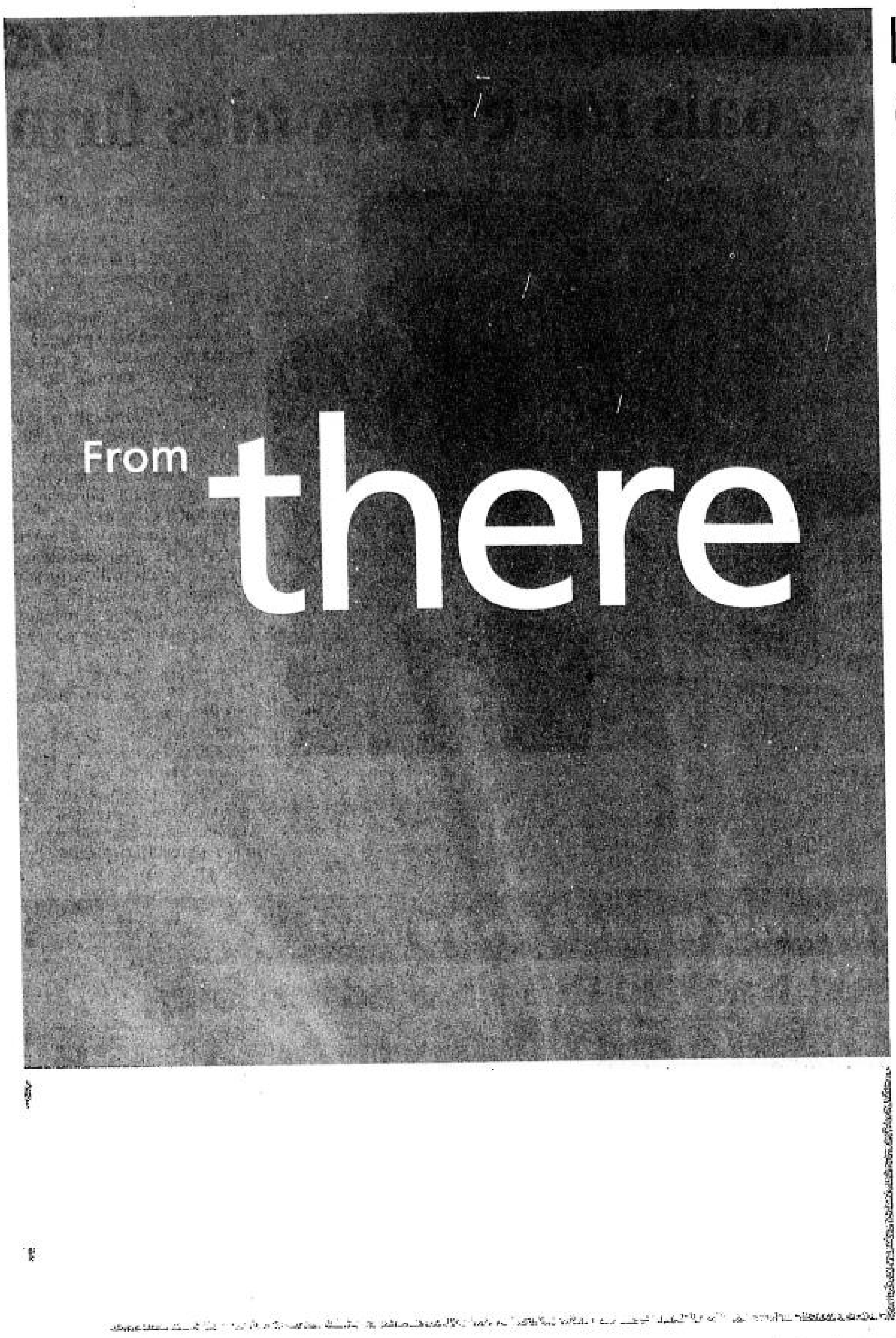


Onward corporate soldiers, say religious activists

ST. LOUIS—Armed with the power of faith and billions of dollars, America's mighty religious establishment is trying to reform the country's boardrooms on issues from human rights to television violence.

Faith-based groups, like other special interest groups, have strategic investments in hundreds of companies that let them use shareholder resolutions to push their agendas.

Bosses, mindful of the importance of religion in the lives of many Americans and its growing impact on politics and public opinion, are paying increasing attention to activists and their causes.

"We keep asking questions in the hope this will cause some soul-searching," said Sister Susan Jordan, a Catholic nun with the School Sisters of Notre Dame St. Louis and coordinator of the Midwest Coalition for Responsible Investment.

This soft-spoken 62-year-old servant of Christ has been battling big business for 20 years and her office, tucked away in a convent on the banks of the Mississippi, is a key command post in a wider campaign with $110 billion under management.

"As Christians we talk about gospel responsibility ... living more simply and not buying into consumerism, making the concerns of the poor your own, reverencing the environment and creation. All of those ... have implications when you think about issues and companies," she said.

Decades of campaigning by religious groups, honed in the civil rights movement and opposition to the Vietnam War, have been adapted to the world of high finance, putting pressure on managers to pay attention and even mend their ways.

"Take Coca Cola," said Rev. David Schilling, program director at the New York-based Interfaith Center of Corporate Responsibility (ICCR). "Last year a resolution filed on HIV/AIDS was looked at by the board, who said 'yes' and supported it." In a clear victory for the faith-based lobby, the soft drinks giant has since produced a report on the economic impact of AIDS on its own operations.

And Nike last week released a 2004 corporate responsibility report that made it the first in the sportswear industry to name all 700 of its contract factory suppliers.

"ICCR members have engaged the company for 10 years on issues related to labor conditions in Nike supplier factories globally and the need for the company to report on how it detects and addresses problems identified," Schilling said.

ICCR was founded in 1971 and is a coalition of Christian and Jewish organizations but as yet no Muslim groups, despite efforts to reach out to that community.

The reason for this disparity is that Islamic teaching forbids the purchase of shares in a company engaged in an activity outlawed by Shari'ah-based Islamic principles, such as consumption of alcohol or gambling.

"We cannot own anything that God prohibits," said Monem Salam, director of Islamic investing at Saturna Capital Corp. in Bellingham, Washington.

Even so, the momentum of faith-based shareholder activism is clearly growing. ICCR filed 264 shareholder resolutions this year, an almost fourfold increase from 20 years ago.

The campaigns are also gaining traction because, in the post-Enron world, many bosses feel the same way. *Reuters*

Talk business in languages you don't speak

IN business talk, exceptional communication channels profitable transaction. In e-commerce—which can be divided into two categories, business to business (B2B) and business to consumer (B2C)—unique communications solutions translate into worldwide distribution.

In a world of flagging economies, collapsing ventures, and shrinking bottom lines, AsiaKing World (AKW) helps expand markets and allows you and your foreign business associates to communicate each in your own native tongue.

Since its inception in 2003, AKW has developed its website as a business-to-business tool. An emerging enterprise rising from the Pacific Rim, it is a privately owned corporation with headquarters in Hong Kong and IT operations centers in Rio de Janeiro, Shanghai, Tokyo and Manila. Its multilingual messaging function with machine translation features lets you reach out to more customers worldwide.

In April 2001, the WorldLingo Quarterly Email Survey pointed out that 91 percent of Fortune 500 and Forbes International 800 companies cannot respond correctly to a foreign language e-mail.

AKW can preclude the necessity of hiring foreign-language specialists to bolster your workforce.

Consider this: According to www.idc.com, an IT consultancy site, Web users are up to four times more likely to purchase from a site that communicates in the customer's language.

Morgan Stanley estimates online sales of anywhere between $21 billion and $115 billion annually by 2005 cites Global Reach, another e-business solutions firm.

The AKW site can translate e-mail and real-time messages into English, French, German, Dutch, Spanish, Portuguese, Greek, Italian, Russian and Japanese as well as traditional or simplified Chinese. While its DynaMail feature interprets e-mail, its DynaChat interprets real-time messages for multilingual markets.

That means you can conduct real-time meetings with business partners from all over the world in 13 languages. AKW allows you to deploy your online storefront and transact business anywhere through the Net and with almost any client.

Because the site uses online machine translation, there is no lag time in conversion. Messages are automatically converted into the preferred language of clients. Using AKW technology, errors are cut back.

While still in its initial launch, the website already has prominent export companies based in China as part of its clientele. Soon, India, Russia and Africa could follow while Europe is just a few mouse clicks away.

With business partners worldwide, the site is a good venue for transactions. AKW members and exporters can promote their products or services online using a multilingual medium. On the AKW site, their complete profile and contact information can be read in 13 languages. Firms feature five products or services for free. Companies pay only $300 a year to feature 10. No need to create their own website.

Interestingly enough, AKW has offline services such as surveys and investigations. By providing vital market research and industrial profile information, such services may prove invaluable to distant and offshore firms.

Imagine Asia as a geometrically expanding market and multilingual transaction as the economic equivalent of kingship in the marketplace. Imagine the wired world engaging in electronic commerce by breaking down communication and economic barriers. This is the paradigm that AsiaKing World presents to its business clients.

Visit the website at www.asiakingworld.com

Championing entrepreneurship

From page B2-1

come popular with students and faculty everywhere, it will motivate them to calibrate their educational programs toward the generation of more entrepreneurs and promote this career track as a strong alternative to employment," Concepcion said.

Concepcion has been tapped to become the consultant for entrepreneurship as he knows whereof he speaks.

Even before he joined the family corporation, he was already running his own popcorn and cotton candy business. He was later asked by his father, Namfrel chair and former Trade Secretary Jose Concepcion, to join the company.

The younger Concepcion first rose to prominence in the late 1980s when he diversified his family's flour and meat-based company, RFM Corp., by acquiring old, undervalued Filipino brands Selecta and Cosmos.

By employing bold marketing and branding campaigns, he succeeded in turning these brands into leaders in their markets.

Selecta used to just have one percent of the market. But in six years, it rose to No. 1, toppling the longtime market leader, Magnolia Ice Cream. RFM has since joined hands with Unilever to take Selecta to the next level.

The same story goes for Cosmos, which dislodged Pepsi from the No. 2 spot in the fiercely competitive soft drinks market.

7,000-percent premium

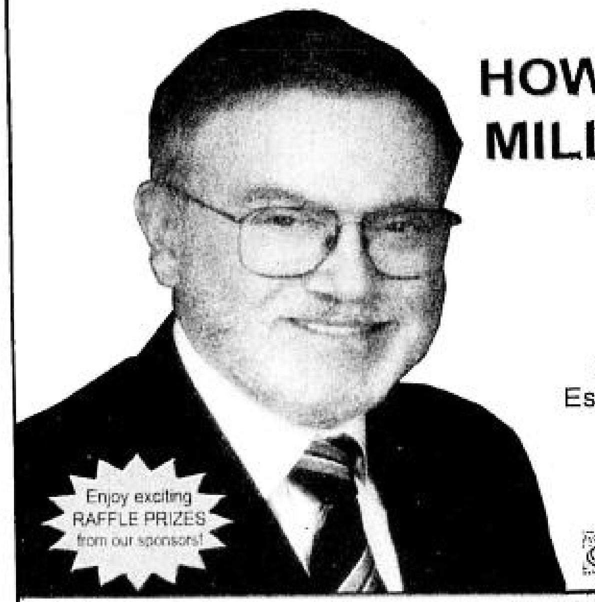
RFM later sold Cosmos to the Coca-Cola group at 7,000-percent premium over what the group had paid 12 years before.

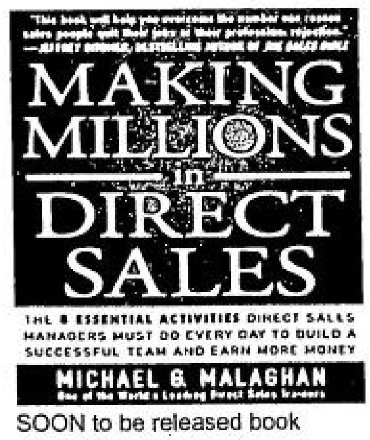
Concepcion also supervised RFM's entry into new businesses: milk and juices (Selecta, Sunkist); high-rise residential tower development (Philtown); microelectronics (PSI Technologies); and thrift banking (Consumer Bank, later sold at a premium to PBCom).

He had said that he was able to take these bold steps for the company because he believed in what the Philippines, and Filipinos, can accomplish. Many say he is optimism personified, and he is comfortable with the tag. So should others.

"Believing and inspiring can become our cycle of success," he said. "It can dispel the pessimism, mediocrity and sloth that hovers above us. Imagine the opportunities lost because many succumbed to doubt. Now, it should no longer restrain the goal to uplift our people from poverty."

"Entrepreneurship is the goal that should keep us going, until we see prosperity all around us. Now, more than ever, is the time to believe and inspire."





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Giving up careers abroad to raise a son, and start a venture

ALEX del Rosario

"CATERING is an art and every project is a precious masterpiece," says Alex Del Rosario, owner-manager of Juan Carlo, a catering outfit. As one of the country's most successful catering businesses, the hard-working Del Rosario believes creativity brings color and meaning even to the simplest occasion, "For us, its not just about providing great food and service but also, an artistic expression."

For 10 years, it has been Juan Carlo's mantra that never fails to endear its ever-growing clientele. Del Rosario, along with wife Teresita, remains the ingenious force behind beautiful weddings and momentous gatherings of ordinary and prominent folks may they be from politics, business and even entertainment. "Encouraging words from our clients like Sharon Cuneta for example, make us feel good about what we do," relates Del Rosario.

Juan Carlo is actually the name of the Del Rosario's only child. To the many who know the couple, raising a son was reason enough to give up high-paying careers abroad and come home to venture into catering. With a P200,000 starting capital and expertise from previously running a small restaurant in Saudi Arabia, the Del Rosarios' took on the challenge.

Today, their decision has greatly paid off.

Passion for good food

From little known functions into high profile celebrations, Juan Carlo earned raves from clients in Batangas, Cavite, Rizal, Quezon, Bulacan and Metro Manila. Averaging 20 or more events a month during peak season, Del Rosario says being hands-on in their catering activities contributed well to such feat, "You see, we treat every catering as if it were our last. So, I make sure that I see to every detail."

Though quite taxing for the feeble-hearted entrepreneurs, Del Rosario's innate passion for his venture helped in overcoming difficulties that come, "I must admit being in catering is highly stressful but having the passion for it makes a lot easier to endure."

Tools of the trade

Banking on the quality of food and service to satisfy the varying needs of its customers, staff training proved crucial. Says Del Rosario "We have industry consultants training our employees. Customer satisfaction is very important to us so we make sure our people achieve high level of service efficiency."

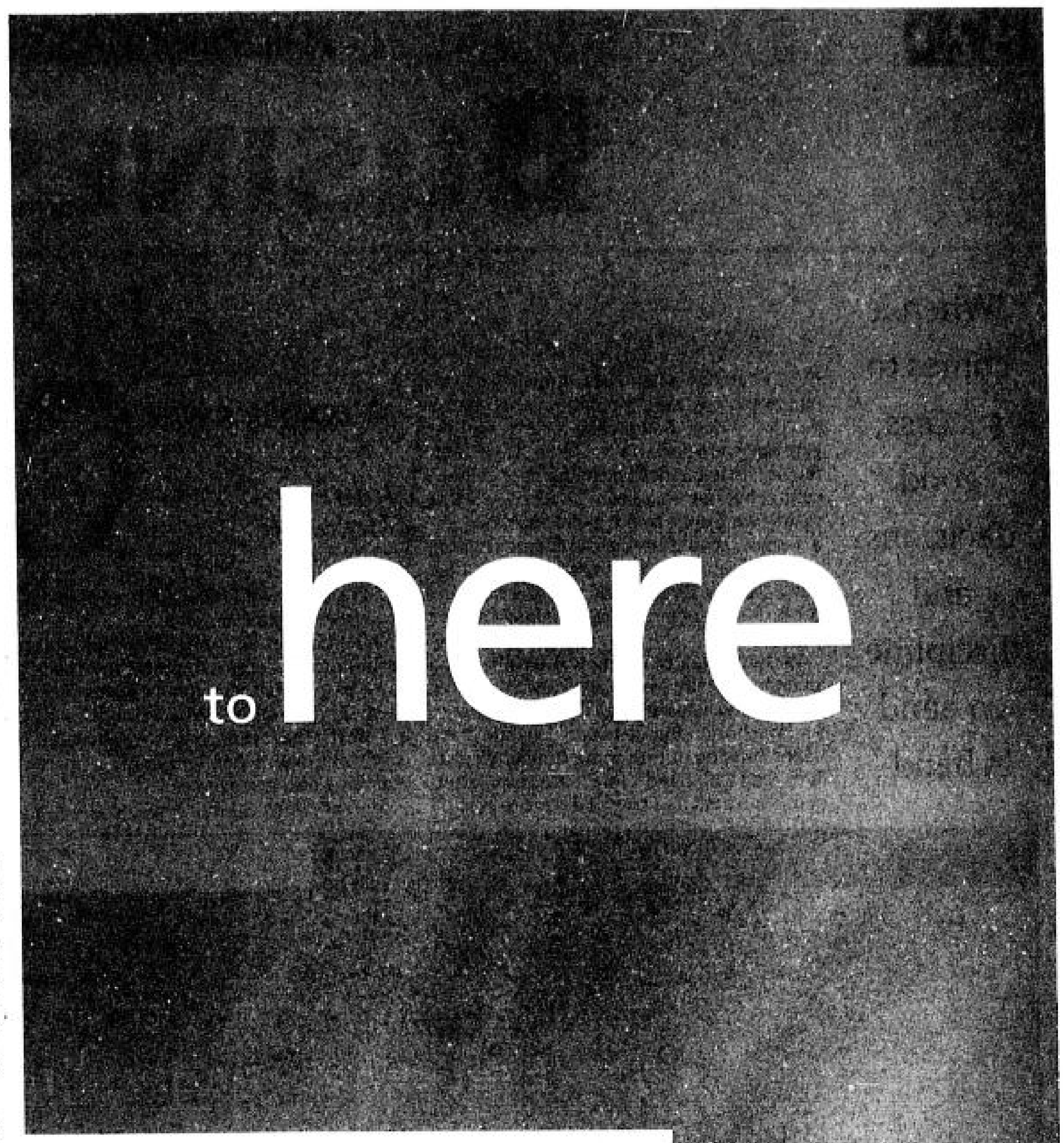
Apart from developing service-oriented staff, Juan Carlo relies on its unique culinary offerings as well as its reliable and durable equipment to meet catering demands. Utilizing novel themes for its catering in tandem with delectable recipes, Juan Carlo found a reliable partner in Sunnex to complement its presentations.

The brand known for its selection of stainless steel cookware, cutlery, teaware and catering items. "Its quality and craftsmanship is really good. It has high-end designs yet very affordable," claims Del Rosario.

Sunnex has gastronorm containers, kitchen utensils as well as plastic and electrical appliances. According to Del Rosario Sunnex proved an invaluable tool in catering.

Looking at bright prospects this year, Del Rosario is keen on continuous training and upgrade of Juan Carlo at the same time, work at uplifting the catering standards in the country via steering forward the Food Caterers Association of the Philippines (FCAP). As current president, it hopes to bring in new and active members to take part in its valued activities.

For more information on Juan Carlo, call 929-3674, for Sunnex, call 242-3040 or 242-2235. Available in leading department stores nationwide.



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Pay the price

> 'When it comes to success, good decisions and discipline go hand in hand.'

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

EVERY Sunday when I was growing up, my dad would give me a list of the chores I had to do that week. Some, like taking out the garbage, were daily tasks. Others, such as my regular assignment of cleaning out the basement, could be completed anytime—as long as they were done by noon on Saturday.

I knew I could do the basement on Monday, Wednesday or even Saturday morning. But I quickly figured out that the sooner I got it done, the more I could enjoy the rest of the week.

Without even realizing it, I was learning an important life lesson: pay now, play later. I could have waited until the last minute to do my chores. But if I had, I would have risked missing out on some fun activity my dad had planned for Saturday afternoon—an activity I knew I'd have to skip if I didn't get my work done. So I chose to make the effort on the front end.

Whether you're doing household chores or building a company, practicing the "pay now, play later" principle requires one key element: discipline. What exactly is discipline? It's the means to getting what you really want even when you don't want to do the thing necessary to get it.

In a previous column, I wrote about how the ability to make right decisions is critical to success in life. That's true, but good decisions have no value without discipline. Decision-making takes care of goal-setting, but only discipline results in goal-getting. As I wrote in my book, "Today Matters," "Everyone wants to be thin, but nobody wants to diet. Everybody wants to live long, but not many want to exercise. Everybody wants money, yet few want to work hard. Successful people conquer their feelings and form the habit of doing things that unsuccessful people do not like to do. The bookends of success are starting and finishing. Decisions help us start; discipline helps us finish."

In other words, when it comes to success, good decisions and discipline go hand in hand. Good decisions minus discipline equals a plan without a payoff. And discipline minus good decisions equals regimentation without reward. Only when we have good decisions plus discipline do we have a masterpiece of potential.

Now, it's not easy to practice discipline. In fact, it can be downright painful at times. We all know what it's like to do something that we don't want to do but know we should do. That's the pain of discipline. But if you don't engage in that kind of pain, you open yourself up to the pain of regret, which is far more excruciating.

This leads me to an obvious question: How do you develop discipline? Here are four steps.

1. Set deadlines and priorities. Don't make a list of everything you have to do and start working from the top. Prioritize your to-do list. Determine which projects you need to accomplish first and how much time you need to get them done. Then give yourself a deadline and get busy.

2. Challenge your excuses. I get so tired of whiny people telling me why they couldn't, shouldn't, didn't and wouldn't. Put the violin away and start taking a hard look at the so-called reasons you cite for not being able to get things done. As I like to say, it's easier to go from failure to success than from excuses to success. As long as you're making excuses, you're never going to make it.

3. Remove rewards until the job's done. Marathon runners don't stop for a break after each mile, and neither should you. I'm not saying you shouldn't divide your work into manageable chunks or celebrate the achievement of intermediate goals. Just don't have that Krispy Kreme doughnut too quickly.

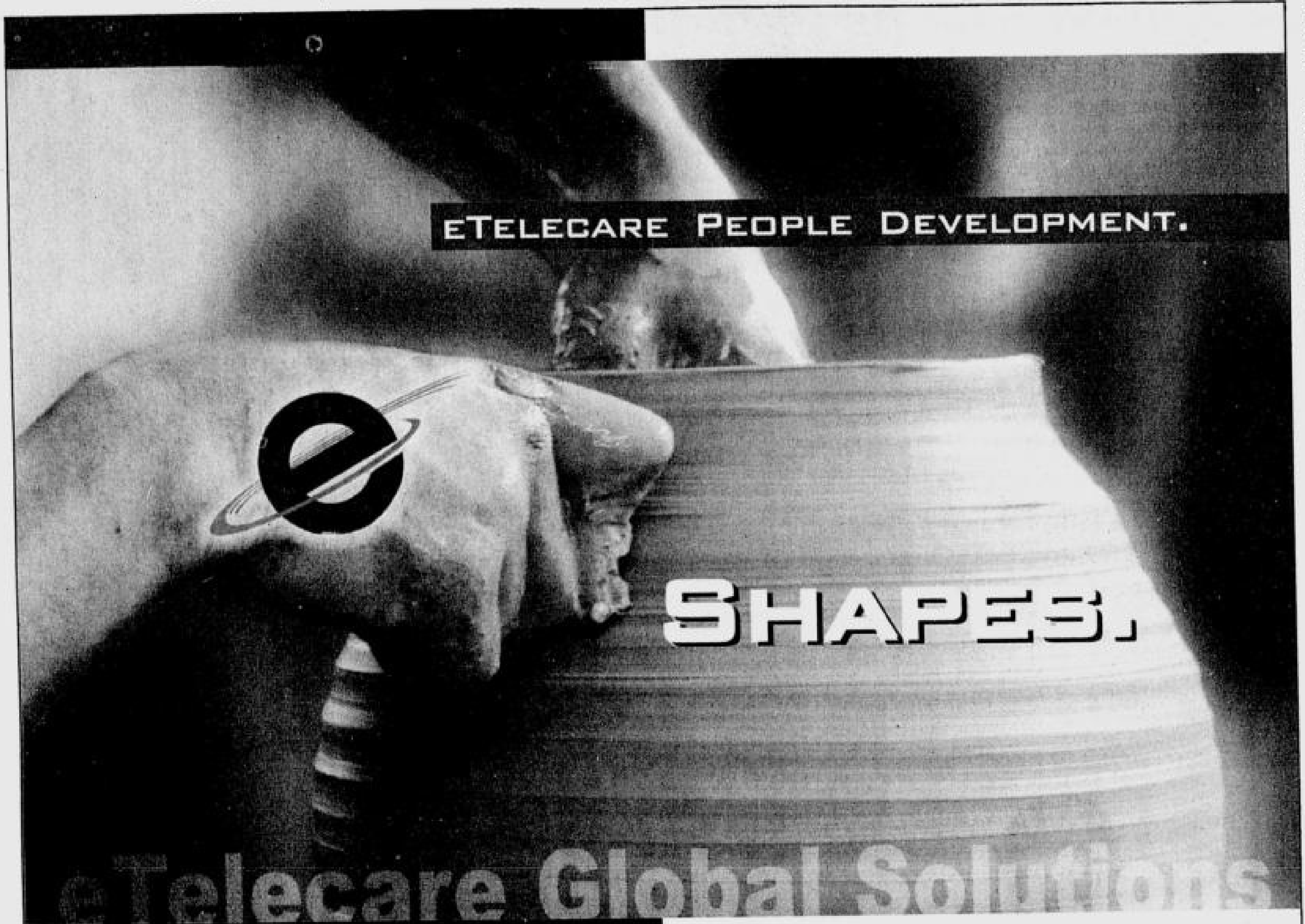
4. Stay focused on results. Jackson Browne once said, "Talent without discipline is like an octopus on roller skates. There's plenty of movement, but you never know if it's going to be forward, backwards, or sideways."

Staying focused on achieving results—with the priority items on your to-do list, I might add—will keep you from acting like an octopus on roller skates.

If you want to be successful—as a leader, as a parent, as a member of society—you have to pay the price. You can be disciplined and pay on the front end, or you can take the seemingly easier path and pay on the back end. Unfortunately, if you play now and pay later, the payment's much heavier. As I often say, hard work is the accumulation of the easy things you didn't do when you should have.

So, learn from my boyhood basement-cleaning strategy. Pay now, and play later. Because if you pay now, you'll get to play a lot longer.

Send your comments or questions to slvguru@pldtdsl.net



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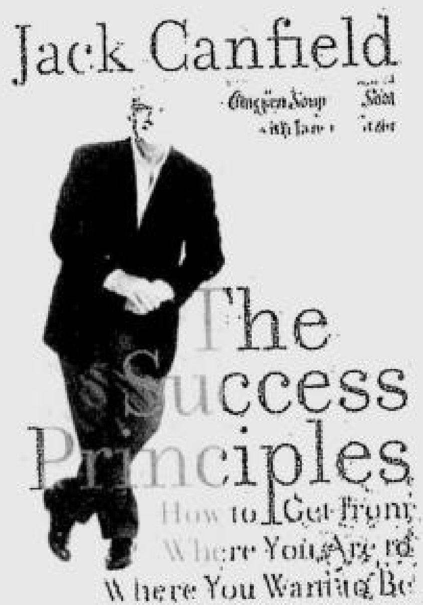
Jack Canfield
Chicken Soup for the Soul
The Success Principles
How to Get From Where You Are to Where You Want to Be

Canfield shares his success principles

JACK Canfield, co-creator of the phenomenal best-selling "Chicken Soup for the Soul" series, shares the principles he studied, taught and lived for more than 30 years in this practical and inspiring guide that will help any person get from where they want to be in his new book, "The Success Principles."

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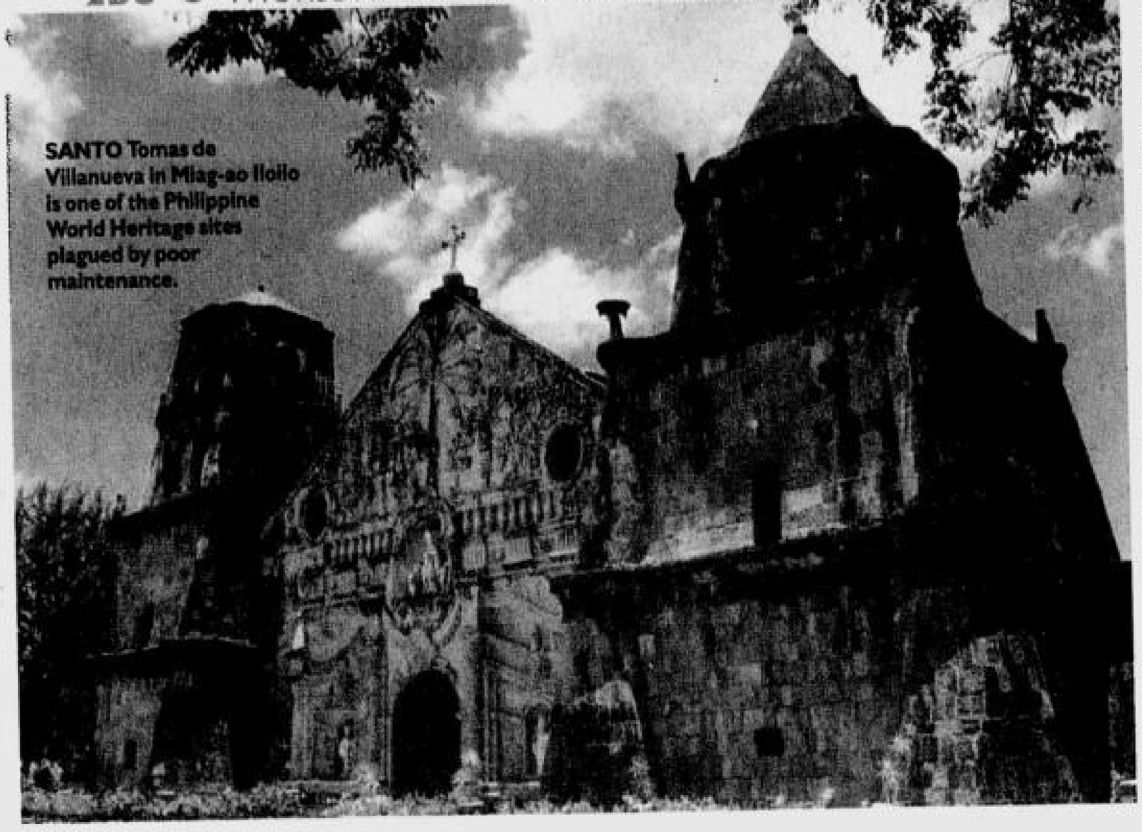

SANTO Tomas de Villanueva in Miag-ao Iloilo is one of the Philippine World Heritage sites plagued by poor maintenance.

World Heritage listing requires local and national effort

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

EVERYBODY wants to have a World Heritage site. Inscription immediately elevates a national or local site to international status, branding it as one of the select few that comprise the patrimony of the world, unique and outstanding sites that exhibit universal value.

World Heritage inscription brings global attention to a site. Government authorities expect an increase of tourism arrivals and more income-generation opportunities, a shortsighted view that opens the site to exploitation and eventual degradation.

Safeguarding the property, not tourism or opportunism, is the primary purpose of inscription. Behind the attractive veil of benefits and prestige that inscription brings, Unesco demands strict guarantees that each World Heritage property is carefully and professionally protected by the country where it is located to assure that its World Heritage values will not disappear forever.

World Heritage inscription is not a simple matter of filling out and submitting a nomination form that proposes a site to the World Heritage List. Preparing a site for World Heritage nomination is a long process that often takes years of preparation.

Unity needed

Preparing for World Heritage inscription is a joint effort by national and local authorities, and more important, by local residents. It is essential that all sectors agree on the same reasons for wanting World Heritage listing, such as maintaining the traditional culture, protecting the natural or cultural beauty of the site, and honoring the memory of a historic act that may have happened there. It could also be an archaeological site with records of a vanished but important civilization, or a natural site of extreme beauty or ecological significance.

A property must have "outstanding universal value" to be inscribed on the World Heritage List, meaning that it possesses exceptional cultural or natural significance that transcends national boundaries, thus it is of importance to present and future generations. Therefore the protection of heritage is of the highest importance to the international community.

The World Heritage Convention lists 10 natural and cultural criteria to prove "outstanding universal value." For instance, one criterion states that a property should "be an outstanding example of traditional human settlement, land-use … representative of a culture or of human interaction with the environment … vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change." Under this criterion, the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras have been inscribed.

The outstanding universal value of the site provides the rationale how it is to be protected and managed. The management of the Rice Terraces, therefore, should protect the villages, terraces, and the environment from the "impact of irreversible change."

Detailed preparation is the key to successful World Heritage inscription. The site must be identified and mapped; its boundaries must be drawn. A buffer zone is designated around the site to protect it from encroachment or other pressures. Laws must be enacted--on national, regional, and local levels--to protect the site. Most important, the people involved with the site must be made aware of their participation in the preservation process.

Plan

A site management plan must be drawn up to assure the protection of the property's outstanding universal value. The plan specifies tasks and timetables for implementation by all involved. It becomes the base document by which management progress is monitored in the future.

On the other hand, for sites where there is no agreement on the outstanding universal value, whose heritage significance is misunderstood or where little cooperation exists among national, local, and community sectors, World Heritage inscription may be disastrous.

In countries where conservation is not important on the national agenda, there is an obvious lack of heritage policy, resulting in confusion when conservation issues must be resolved.

In the Philippines, a set of national heritage values and heritage guidelines do not formally exist. Although heritage awareness is increasing, most citizens are unaware that a web of overlapping legislation to protect heritage has been in existence since as early as 1901. Recent attempts to enact a national heritage law have been unsuccessful. On the other hand, enacting legislation on a local level has been positive.

Protection and maintenance of heritage sites in the Philippines is not carried out to uniform standards due to the absence of national heritage policy, a situation that prevents inscribed sites from achieving maximum benefit from World Heritage inscription.

The World Heritage mechanism works to the advantage of inscribed sites when all national, local, and community stakeholders fully understand that the responsibility for carrying out and funding site preservation is principally in their hands. Unesco is always willing to provide technical and training assistance.

Commitment

The World Heritage Convention is an international instrument ratified by state parties, therefore commitment to the convention is on a national level. Upon signing the convention, each country pledges to provide full socioeconomic and technical support to World Heritage sites within its borders.

It is unfortunate that some national authorities insist on inscription without thorough preparation of the site for World Heritage.

The Philippine record for maintaining World Heritage properties is far from perfect. The Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras are on the World Heritage in Danger List, a special listing of World Heritage properties that are in need of intensive care.

Despite technical and financial government assistance for conservation, parish priests from each of the four inscribed churches insist on their own way to repair and alter their churches, completely disregarding the fact that they are custodians of structures considered to be international treasures.

The Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park, a natural property on the World Heritage List, is excellent for its management practices. The PP-SRNP Management Team takes meticulous care of the river and its surrounding mountains, forests, marine life, and most of all, assuring that the resident community benefits from World Heritage inscription.

World Heritage listing works both ways. It can be a benefit to a site, or, as we have learned in the Philippines, the opening of a can of worms.

Heritage watch: San Sebastian Church

In 1998, World Monuments Watch of New York granted the National Historical Institute $25,000 to undertake conservation of the all-steel San Sebastian church. The project was never implemented.

Last month, the World Monuments Watch demanded the return of the money. A recent letter from the NHI to San Sebastian stated, "It has been almost six years since the grant was awarded in 1998 and it is unfortunate that San Sebastian Church authorities were unwilling to cooperate with NHI on conservation efforts."

The international competition for conservation funds is tough. Returning them is an embarrassment. The attitude of the San Sebastian priests shows a really low level of concern for a significant structure of national and international patrimony.

E-mail your feedback to afvillalon@hotmail.com

DURING the American era, structures were built in many town plazas together with statues of Jose Rizal. such as this one from Ballesteros, Cagayan, which should be preserved.

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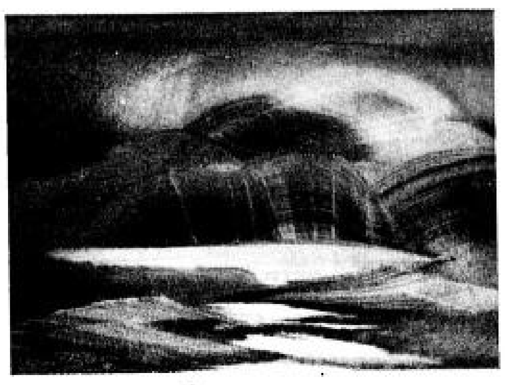
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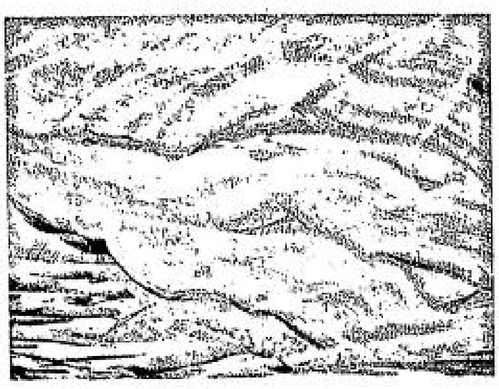
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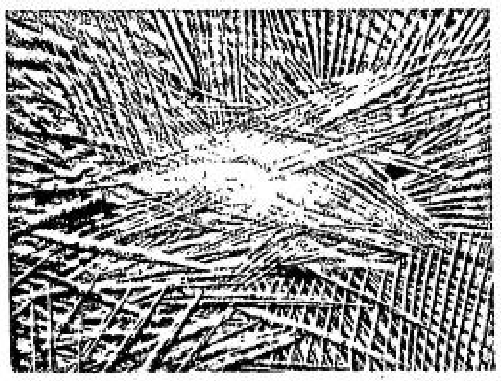
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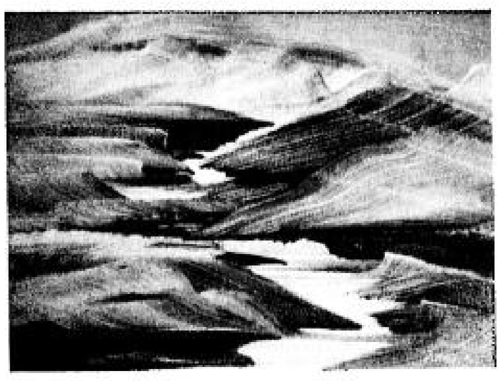
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The landscape of feeling and imagination

By Constantino C. Tejero

JUSTIN Nuyda's art can't be mistaken for someone else's. It is as distinguishable as Romulo Olazo's, the likes of which can never be found in other artists' works.

While Malang Santos' naïf, for instance, has engendered numerous artists whose works closely resemble one another (they look boring), Nuyda and Olazo are hardly imitated. Because these two have found peculiar techniques in art-making that have been indelibly identified with them.

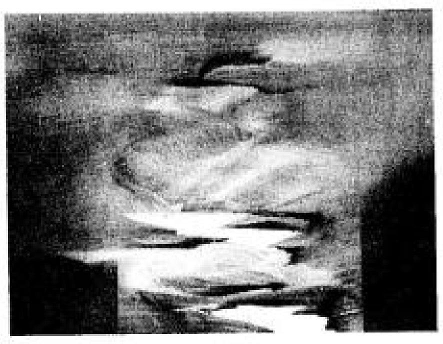
Other artists may approximate or imitate their works, but the deftness of their handling easily distinguishes their respective art. Both have virtually patented their techniques as their own.

For Olazo, it is that diaphanous look in his painting he accidentally discovered while working on collography. For Nuyda, it is the radial or undulating repeat lines created by big brush and palette knife.

Nuyda once improvised a toothed knife and, together with the brush used for painting houses, created unique forms sweeping, radiating or swirling across the canvas. It proves to be a supple technique as it can evoke abstracted nudes as well as fantasy landscapes, for which the artist has come to be known.

Witness his "Search Mindscapes," 12 pieces in oil on paper, until May 3 in Galleria Düemila at the Artwalk, L/4, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

This is the latest series of what he calls "mindscapes," fantastic images evoking moods, thoughts and emotions. It is essentially abstraction whose gestural strokes or accidental shapes conjure landscapes, clouds, dunes, hillocks, desert, isthmus, mountain range, bodies of water.

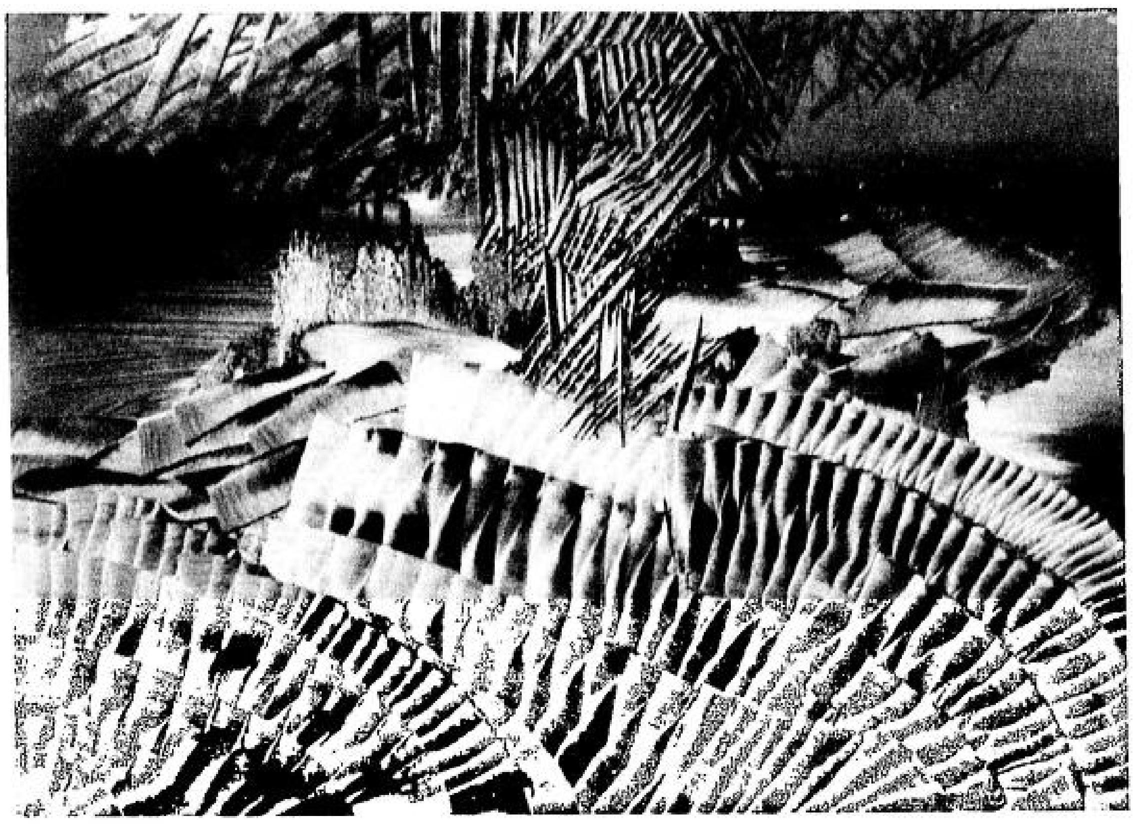

"MINDSCAPES in Gold" 2

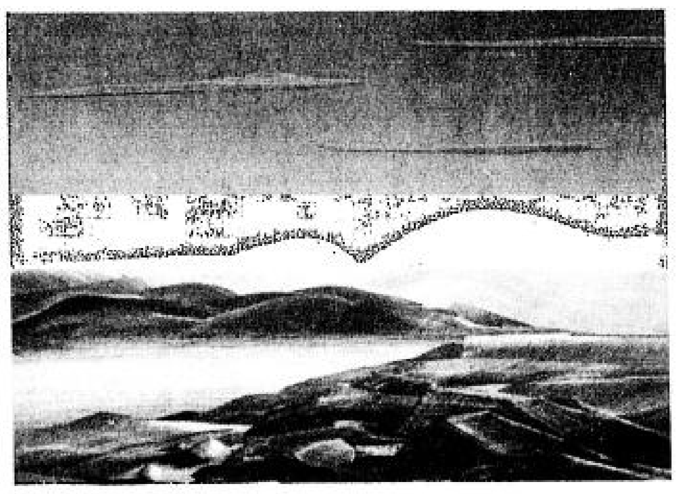
The pieces are rendered chiefly in cool colors, in various shades of green, blue and gray (turquoise, ultramarine, sap-green, slate, pearl-gray, smoke-gray). A few are in warm earth tones (yellow ochre, tawny brown, burnt sienna, raw umber).

Most are in monochrome, such as "Rio's Dome," a brooding piece of gray dome-like undulations under a smoky-blue sky. (This is a homage to the cancer-stricken actress Rio Diaz, and a meditation on her death.)

One piece uses a jolting juxtaposition of contrasting tones. In "Mindscape in Gold" 1, the warm color mass is broken in parts by narrow yet blinding strips of blue, like eyes peeking from heaven.

The imagery is not meant to be real but as expression of feeling, a mood, a figment of the imagination. Green undulations forming outlines of mountains, for instance, are titled "Emotional Tones" and "A Taste of Gratitude."


"SEARCH Mindscapes Moods"


"RIO'S Dome"

Yet in "Moods," the title notwithstanding, we see what appears to be a sun-bleached skeleton of some prehistoric behemoth sprawling on the landscape. This is surrealism at its best.

A similar piece is "Banak," one in a previous series, showing a nest-like configuration of repeat forms and radial lines.

This exhibit shows how Nuyda is a one-of-a-kind artist. He may dwell on the same theme, create the same form again and again, and repeat himself from exhibit to exhibit, yet his art is never boring. Rather, it stimulates the mind.

A Fine Arts graduate from University of Santo Tomas, Nuyda received the Thirteen Artists Award from the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

He also does ceramics. To top it all, he is chair of the Insect Society of the Philippines.

Flower power blooms in May

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

Atienza Lee gives thanks and praise for the Creator's gifts through her paintings

THE ARTIST Alice Atienza Lee paintings in her garden

THE FIRST solo show by a late-blooming artist who is just past middle age delves into her all-consuming passion for flowers.

The love affair inauspiciously began with sketches in her growing up years and, many years later, was ignited by her direct encounter with art and the process of art-making.

But unlike the tried-and-tested path taken by many a flower painter, Alice Atienza Lee has chosen to focus on the singular attributes of tropical varieties of flower, the stark beauty of their petals, reflecting the grandeur of creation.

As in the Manoling Francisco ditty that inspired her, the exhibit is her way of giving thanks and praise for all the gifts the Creator has showered on her.

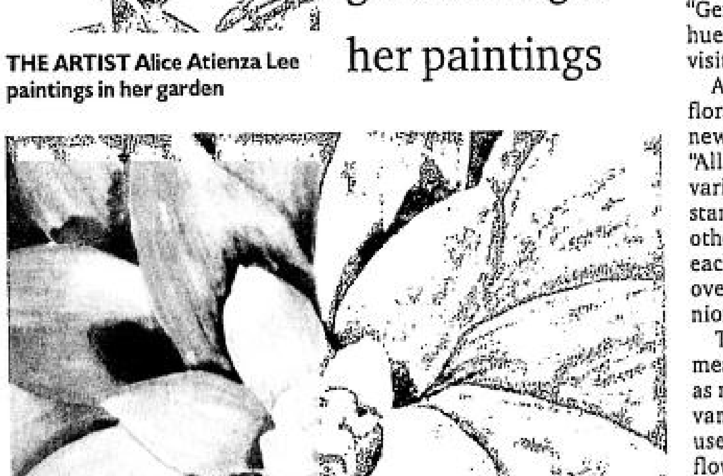
The artist turned to art from the unlikely field of Economics, a science that helped her wield the brush with calculated precision and derring-do. Uprooted from Manila, she settled with her family in Calasiao, Pangasinan where her in-laws had a thriving hardware retail business.

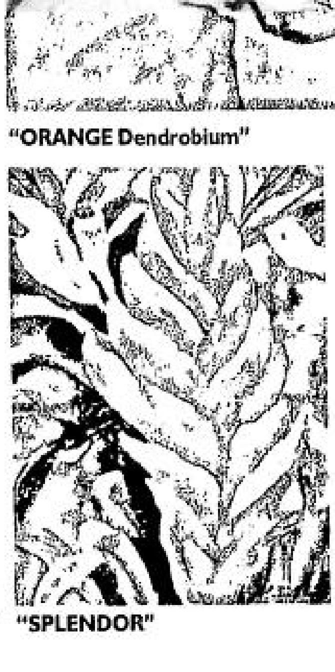
Provincial life

Atienza Lee always reveled in the joys of unhurried provincial life. She hasn't regretted making the move from Big City.

Home for the Lees is a sprawling lot with a garden, a swimming pool, and a lush collection of tropical blooms. Far from the madding crowd, she hies off to the city in the summer to enroll her kids in workshops (her son is a math whiz). This is how she eventually stumbled into the art class of Fernando Sena, whom she credits for rediscovering the artist in her.

The subject of her exhibit—called "I Will Sing Forever," (Renaissance Art Gallery, May 6-15)—may look tried and tested, even de rigueur, for aspiring figurative painters. But the artist has a fresh point of view, and a solid technique that neither distracts or detracts from the function for which her subject has been conceived.


"ORANGE Dendrobium"


"SPLENDOR"

Watercolorist

Being adept in the watercolor medium, which her teacher kept honing while she was under his tutelage, she knows how to thrust the blooms into the viewer's consciousness, petals and all.

Not only do the floral subjects cut a regal presence, unencumbered by distracting details as in a floral arrangement, they also seem to be communicating certain positive energies generated by their colors, the main attributes associated with a particular mood and state of mind.

Thus, in the case of the radiant sunflower, with its white petals instead of the usual yellow, the message is encapsulated in the title "Contentment." For an exotic variety of orchid, "Gentle Morning," the purplish hues graciously welcome the visitor.

A rare variety of the tropical flora, seen up close from the newly opened pistil, is called "All That I Am," while a white variety is simply called "Understanding." There are a host of other personal associations with each specific flower, exuding an overflowering sense of communion and commonality.

The still life pieces are not meant to be pejoratively treated as mere objects of adornment or vanity, since these are often used in conjunction with other flowers in a vase or container. In this show, they have been plucked straight from the mother plant, in situ, their burst of colors literally radiating from their petals. Remaining unabashedly pristine, these are indeed beautiful pieces of creation, expressing the most masterful work of art.

This being Atienza Lee's first solo bid in the art world, viewers in search of an awe-inspiring image to complement the merry month of May will doubtless find an ingénue with mastery of the medium.

To paraphrase a Chinese proverb that once spurred the imagination to glorious political heights, "Let a hundred flowers bloom."

Indeed, they have, in these works that sing forever, to the delight of art lovers and flower lovers alike.

Artists pay tribute to Pampanga

THE exhibit, "The Beauty of Pampanga (A Tribute to the Province and its People)," is ongoing until May 8 at Hotel Gracelane in San Agustin, San Fernando, Pampanga.

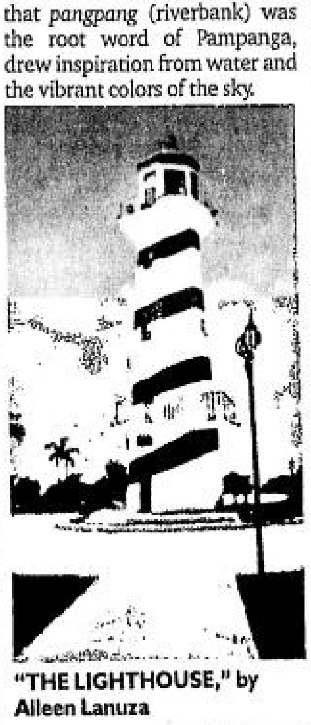
The exhibit features the works of 18 artists from the Guevarra Group of Artists led by Gig de Pio, Andi Cubi and Egai Fernandez, who visited Pampanga in February.

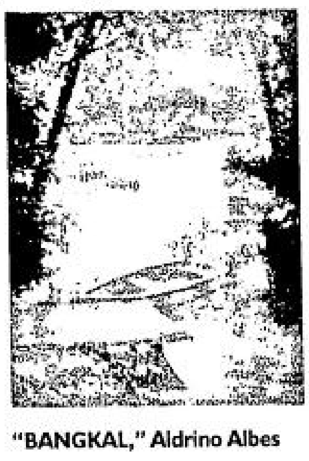
The group spent most of its time at The Lakeshore, a 250-hectare development along the North Expressway in Mexico.

A total of 43 works that resulted from the visit are featured in exhibit that opened April 22 at The Lakeshore in Mexico, Pampanga, to mark the opening of the new Lakeshore Tent.

The exhibit was then moved to Hotel Gracelane (Tel: 45-8601234 in Pampanga and 7239253 or 7239418 in Manila) that same weekend.

The artists, who discovered that *pangpang* (riverbank) was the root word of Pampanga, drew inspiration from water and the vibrant colors of the sky.


"THE LIGHTHOUSE," by Aileen Lanuza


"BANGKAL," Aldrino Albes

Two months after their February visit, the group, with several guest artists like Juvenal Sansô, Mario Parial and Goding Mercado Reyes, mounted the 43-piece, exhibit.

Parial submitted colorful paintings adorned by his special gold leaf paint to pay tribute to Pampanga's heritage. His contribution to the exhibit were paintings of a candle vendor and a *dalagang Pilipina*.

Reyes is exhibiting his painting of a mother and child. Rellie Liwag's work is entitled Kapampangan Beauties. Pampanga's being a major producer of rice was acknowledged by Cubi, Bernard Vista and Felix Tiglao in their different depictions of harvest.

Pancho Villanueva, Aldino Abes, Jerry Morada, Marbella, Michael Velasco and Aileen Lanuza drew inspiration from the scenic vistas of The Lakeshore. They painted the cool waters of the lake, the island, the lighthouse, and little bancas on the lake.

Eileen Escueta painted lotus flowers seen on the lake as well as Mount Arayat. Liwag also painted Mount Arayat and the Mater Dolorosa, an antique statue of the virgin owned by a prominent Pampanga family.

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Jack Salud's dotted wonders

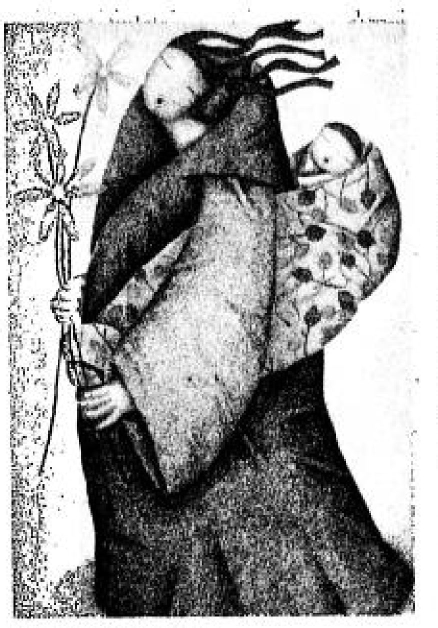
UNIVERSAL yet multicultural in spirit, formally constructed yet nostalgic, reductive, sentimental, textured and decorative yet unadorned, chromatic and tonal... There is an endless list of utterly divergent qualities which are held together in Jack Salud's work. Once more, the pointillist artist known for his rustic figures paints scenes of serenity and bliss, a balm for these times of turmoil.

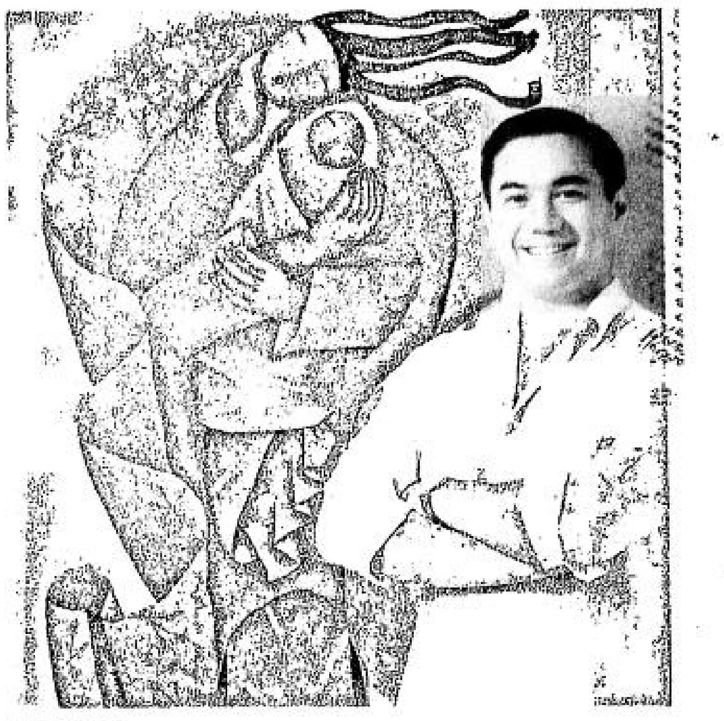
Entitled "Dotted Arias III," the show marks Salud's 16th one-man exhibit, which opens at the prestigious Gallery 139, 3/L, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center from May 6 to June 3.

Painstakingly executed, with more than million delicate dots of paint, the series shall feature large-scale canvases of Salud's trademark, energetic yet restful shapes set amid a breezy background of cascading leaves. Musicians in solitude, children at play, are but a few of his subjects in this seven-piece exhibit. Jack Salud first entered the art scene in 1996 when he was invited by Mrs. Chichi Salas of Gallery Genesis to participate in the gallery's annual "Kulay sa Tubig" watercolor group exhibition, which was participated by the country's top 50 contemporary young artists. In 1997, he opened his first solo exhibit at the Ayala Museum entitled "Love, Love Songs, and Lullabies" upon the approval of the museum's curator Sonia Ner. Salud consequently received the prestigious commission to design two of the museum's Christmas cards that year. In 1999, he opened his first international solo exhibit in Roppongi, Tokyo through the invitation of the Department of Foreign Affairs. In the words of Cid Reyes, renowned art critic, "Salud's art aches with such emotional feelings, but with a mixture of understated elegance and a surfeit of ornamentalism. But it is the Oriental sentiment that so pervades the mood of his works—a tranquilizing peace that envelopes every figure in his domestic landscapes."

All the works, rendered in acrylic, reflects the artist's view that "simple and pure pleasures are what gives a person true happiness and spiritual contentment." That sense of tranquility Salud chooses to share through his paintings.

Call 7289724 or e-mail jcksalud@pldt.dsl.net.


"A JOYFUL Journey"


JACK Salud

Tanedo at Boston, Maluche at Mag:Net, nude photos at Astra

VISUAL ARTS

BOSTON Gallery mounts the solo exhibitions of CJ Tañedo and Christopher Zamora until May 25 at 72 Boston St., Cubao, QC. In "Sanctuaries," Tañedo's paintings incorporate collaged images, photographic appropriations and poetry written at the edges of the pictorial frame. Zamora explores the voyeur's gaze in a series of works titled "Silip." Call 7229205.

PAINTER, sculptor, writer and photographer Andy Maluche pays humorous homage to contemporary multiplicity of art and its conveyors in "Polycreationists" at Mag:Net Gallery (Paseo Center, Paseo de Roxas and Sedeno St., Makati City) on May 3 to 16. Call 9293191 or 8177895.

FRANK Hoefsmit and Joreli Legaspi hold "Forza Interna," an exhibit of nude photographs at Galerie Astra (LRI Business Plaza, 210 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati). The 30 nude colored and monochramatic studies depict the male and female bodies in various internal struggle. Call 8903988 and 7243032.

FOOD & Art Galerie (12/F GT Tower, HV dela Costa and Ayala Ave., Makati) presents Armida Francisco's "Mother" on May 2-31. She uses warm and cool colors carefully designed to impart the message of broken light. Her works focus on nature and human figures. Call 6302700/ 0918-3205145.

ALSO at Food & Galerie, "Growing Season," Dyna Quizon-Ondoy's first solo exhibit, May 2-31. The show consists of recent works in oil and acrylic.

LEA Padilla and Emilia Monroy hold their exhibit until May 6 at the Philippine Center in New York City. Padilla's concern for material manifestations of vanishing cultures take form in these folksy naif vignettes of the everyday and exotic. Monroy's artworks are based on the Bible's Psalm 148.

GALERIA delas Islas will mount "Colour Outburst" by the Las Piñas Artists Society on May 7-31 in Intramuros, Manila. Participating artists are Arao Salamat, Nick Aranda, Sonny Artista, Bangbang, Riza Barredo, June Beato, Buji Blancaflor, Peter Balais, Roger Crisostomo, Rey Conmigo, Erwin Celeste, Buboy Dinapo, Wilbert de Luna, Elmer Gernale, Carol Gonzalez, Charm Gonzalez, Arnel Juan, Tony Leriorato, Mercy Medina, Tito Nobleza, Indic Paquito Jr., Oscar Quevedo, Teody Racuya, Joe Reyes, Dan Libor, Ramon Cantor, Nards dela Cruz, Tony Valdueza, Sharon Ternate, Nardz Zepeda and Ellen Valen. Meanwhile, the Aquarellists' "Blooming" is ongoing until May 4. It features floral collections. Call 5469238/ 0919-3145288.

PINTO Art Gallery (1 Sierra Madre St., Grand Heights, Antipolo City) launches the 4th Antipolo Maytime Arts Festival through a series of simultaneous exhibitions on May 8-June 25. Taking the Antipolo Maytime pilgrimage as its central concept, the gallery has invited several artists from the regions to exhibit their works alongside the creations of local painters. Call 6971015.

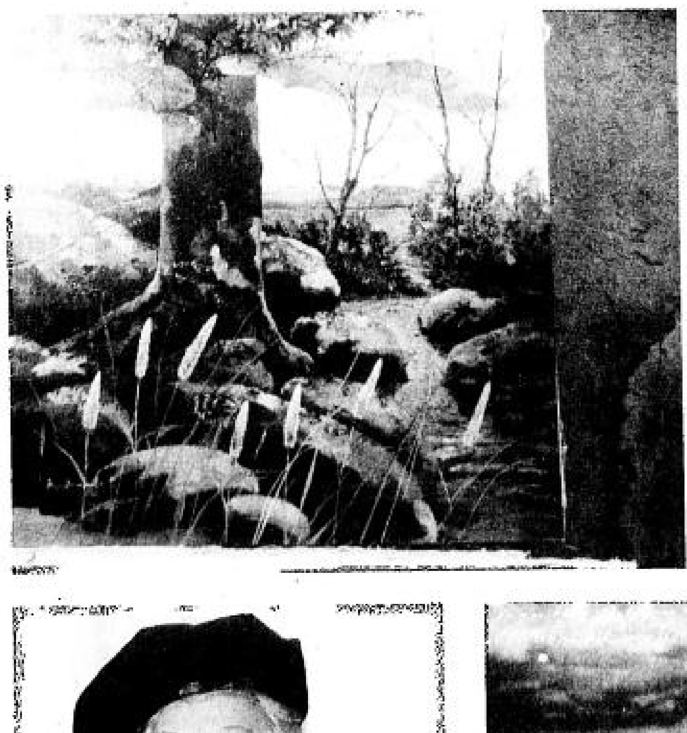
FINALE Art Gallery showcases Billy Atienza's "Off Color Tales" until May 10 at Artwalk, Level 4, Megamall A. In most of the works, half of the canvas is an abstract black, the other side is occupied by an image that the viewer has to peer at to discern it. Atienza based the images on photographs. Call 6342410/ 6342411.

MAYFIELD'S Clubhouse features Priscilla Teodoro's "Walk Through Magical Zen Realities" on May 14-June 15 at Mayfield Park (behind Makro, Imelda Avenue, Pasig). The exhibit displays batik on silk paintings, chairs, tables, dividers that use eggshells, watermelon seeds, onion skin and rice husks. On May 14 and 15, poetry readings, Japanese film screenings, tai-chi and qigong sessions will be held.

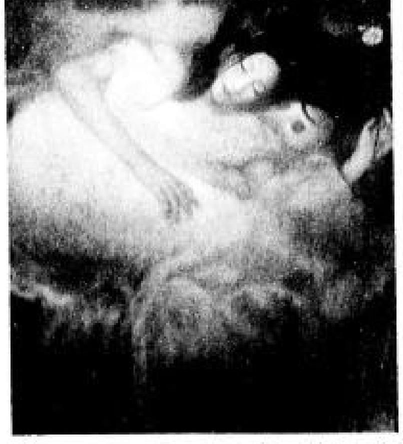
THE POSITIVISM Art Gallery presents "Flowers for the Mother and Child" on May 17-30 at Enterprise Plaza, 1429 Pablo Ocampo St., Brgy. San Antonio, Makati. The group exhibit-sale is for the benefit of streetchildren taking free art lessons from painter E.R. Tagle. Call 8112432/ 0927-5522288.

THE DOCENT Training Program is ongoing at Ayala Museum, cor. Makati Avenue and Dela Rosa Sts., Makati. The program provides lectures and talks on Philippine history, arts and culture, and workshops on how to prepare scripts and conduct tours for guests. Speakers include Manuel Quezon III, Luis Dery, Ricardo Jose, Kenneth Esguerra, Santiago Pilar, Rod Paras-Perez, Isabel Kenny and Ramon Villegas. Call 7577117 to 21 local 14.

PORTRAIT artist Gig de Pio conducts a drawing workshop on portraits and figures on May 14-July 2 at Ayala Museum, Makati. Students are required to have background on basic drawing. Call 7577117 local 29. E-mail workshops@ayalamuseum.org or register online at www.ayalamuseum.org.


"DREAMLAND"

ARTIST and art educator Araceli Dans was recently conferred the degree Doctor of Humanities, honoris causa by the Feati University. The conferment was headed by the university's officers: CEO Francisco Segovia, chief finance and administrative officer Margaret Araneta Segovia and president Felisberto Reyes.


"MOONLIGHT Serenade," by CJ Tañedo

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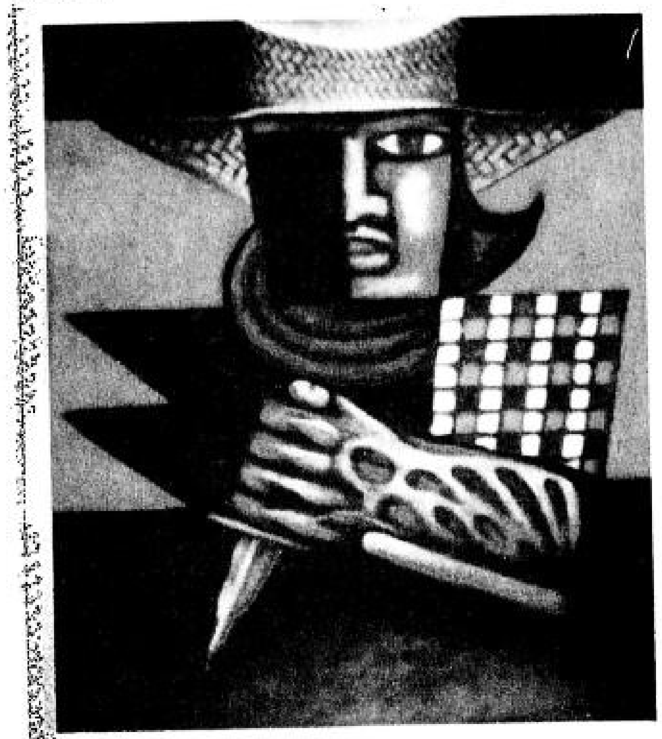
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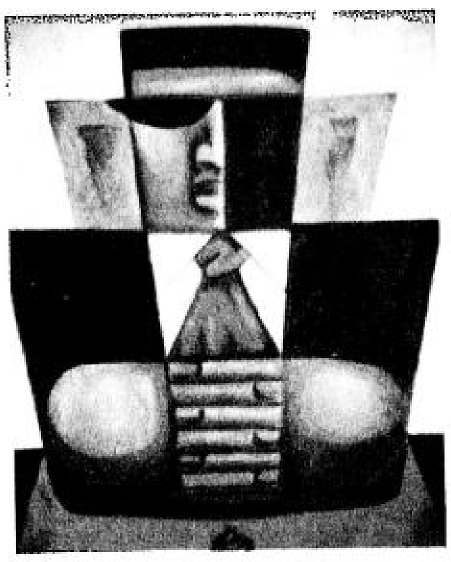
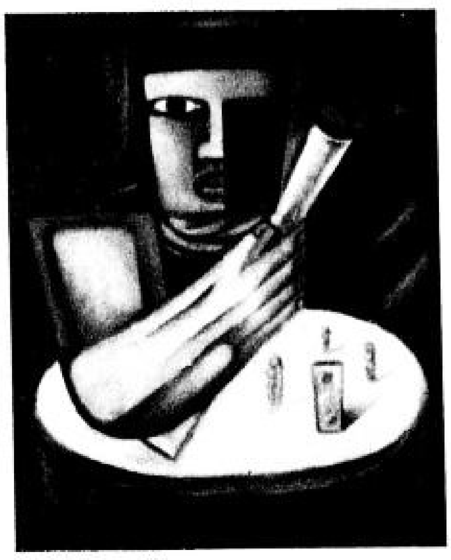

"YUPOY"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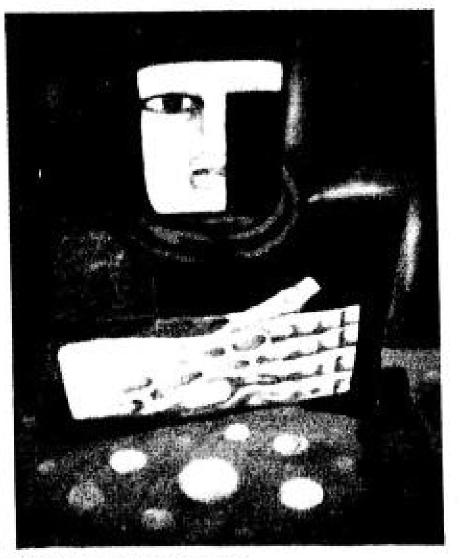

"LUTAW Sa Panganod"

Nunelucio Alvarado comes out

The Negros artist's new works on exhibit at Penguin depict his personal mood because of a health problem with refreshing candor and wit

By Jessica Jalandoni-Robillos
Contributor

"LET'S talk about sexy things!" says Nunelucio Alvarado. This is followed by a hearty laugh, as he relays how he reacted to his town mate who lamented to him labor woes in the middle of a song during a session of videoke, their favorite pastime.

Alvarado is an artist who champions the cause of fisherfolk, market vendors and sugarcane workers of Negros. He is particularly known for depicting on his canvases the toil and torment of *sakadas*.

Ironic then, that his mestizo complexion, ruddied and bronzed by the sun, coupled with his fondness for plaid and chambray shirts, gives him the look of the rare hands-on haciendero. The salt and pepper hair complements the look, except that now he sports it long, perhaps an artist's dead giveaway.

Certainly, he isn't all work and no play. He enjoys a good bottle of booze as much as the next bohemian regular at Penguin Gallery, among his favored haunts in Malate. It is also here where he currently mounts "Lonely Table," a series of depictions of solitary figures.

He says that after his more somber exhibits, "Kapoy Utok Ko," Ilonggo for "My Brain Tires," so he alternates these with his "daily bread" and Family series. He sees these different series as never-ending stories, and "Lonely Table" is the genesis of another kind of contemplation.

In the latest pieces, he sees through with somewhat saddened eyes. This could be because he has just been diagnosed with a prostate problem. However, he has no intention of keeping his illness secret not only because its effect on his artwork is profound, but also because with it, he seems to have found a new cause. Coming out openly about his medical case is his way of encouraging people to have a lifestyle change. To this artist, honesty is the best therapy.

Mortality

Perhaps being confronted with his own mortality has made "Nune" acutely aware of those out by their lonesome. He himself seems alone in Manila for his medical treatment, without his wife and kids to comfort and care for him. (He asks them to stay put in Negros, assuring them he's all right.)

In the works, he does not capture simply the melancholia and the loneliness, but shows varied scenes and even tackles social issues.

"Ga-aso-aso nga Kape kag Mainit nga Monay" speaks of comfort food: steaming coffee and bread freshly baked. It's solace through the palate, however simple the fare or how hard a day's work has been or will be.

"Yupoy" seems a diatribe against the pretentious, a pun marrying English with the Ilonggo slang for feces. Seen is a yuppy with a sundae twirl of excrement in front of him. It seems to say that the worldly consume their own dirt, whether in the manner of their rise to success or in their efforts to maintain the status quo.

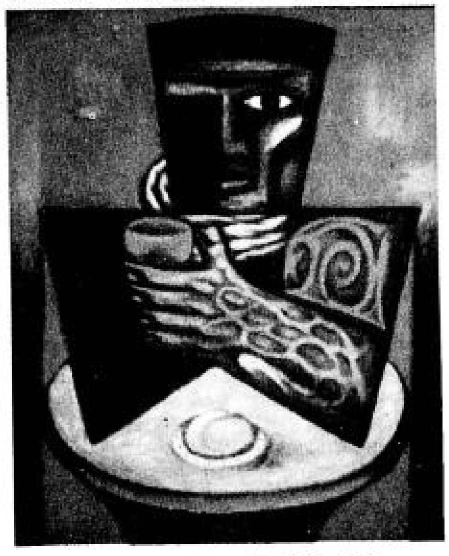
Shades of the social realism he is acclaimed for is likewise cleverly imparted in "Mama Rosa," the female pimp who has on her table figures of women, consumable, pawns in her illicit trade.

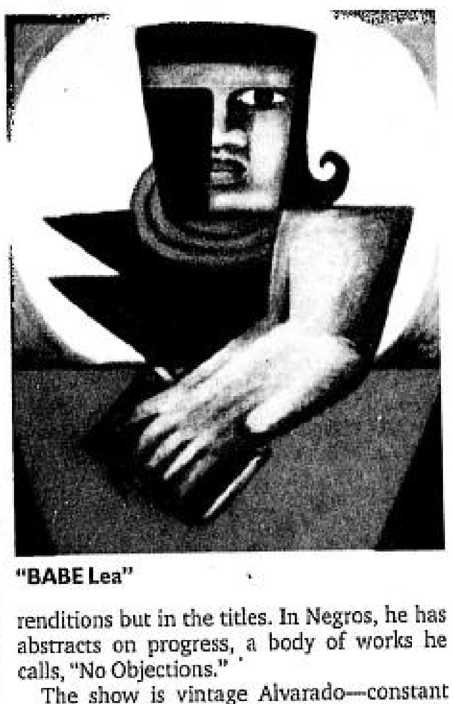
There is also "Lutaw sa Panganod" (Alfoat a Raging Flood) and "Kapyot sa Patalom" or "Kapit sa Patalim," which refer to the plight of the "probinsyano" who comes to Manila in search of greener pastures only to be disappointed.

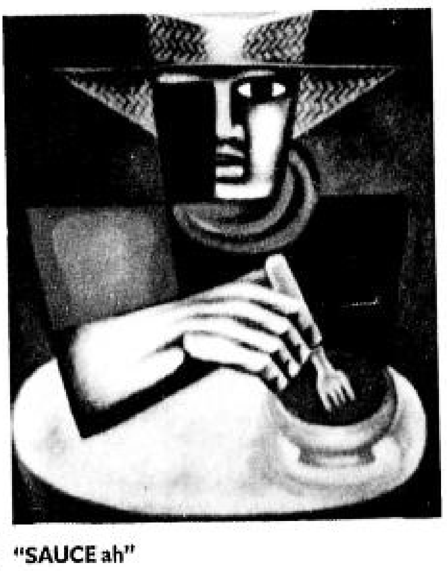
Evident is the artist's wit not only in the renditions but in the titles. In Negros, he has abstracts on progress, a body of works he calls, "No Objections."

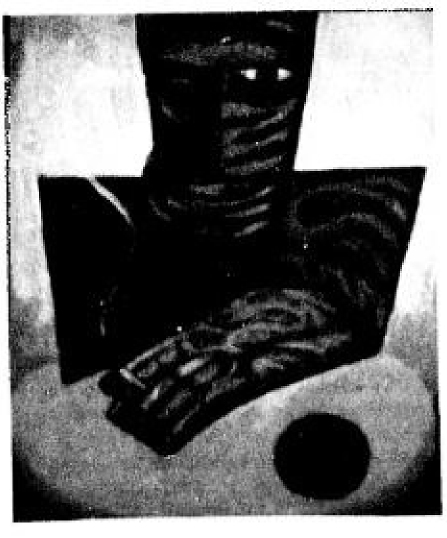
The show is vintage Alvarado—constant are the almost square faces, angular extremities even of the females and the sinewy arms that signify hard work. "*Gusto ko 'yung* art *ko 'yung may laman*," he says. And always, the bold colors that underscore the strength of the pieces.

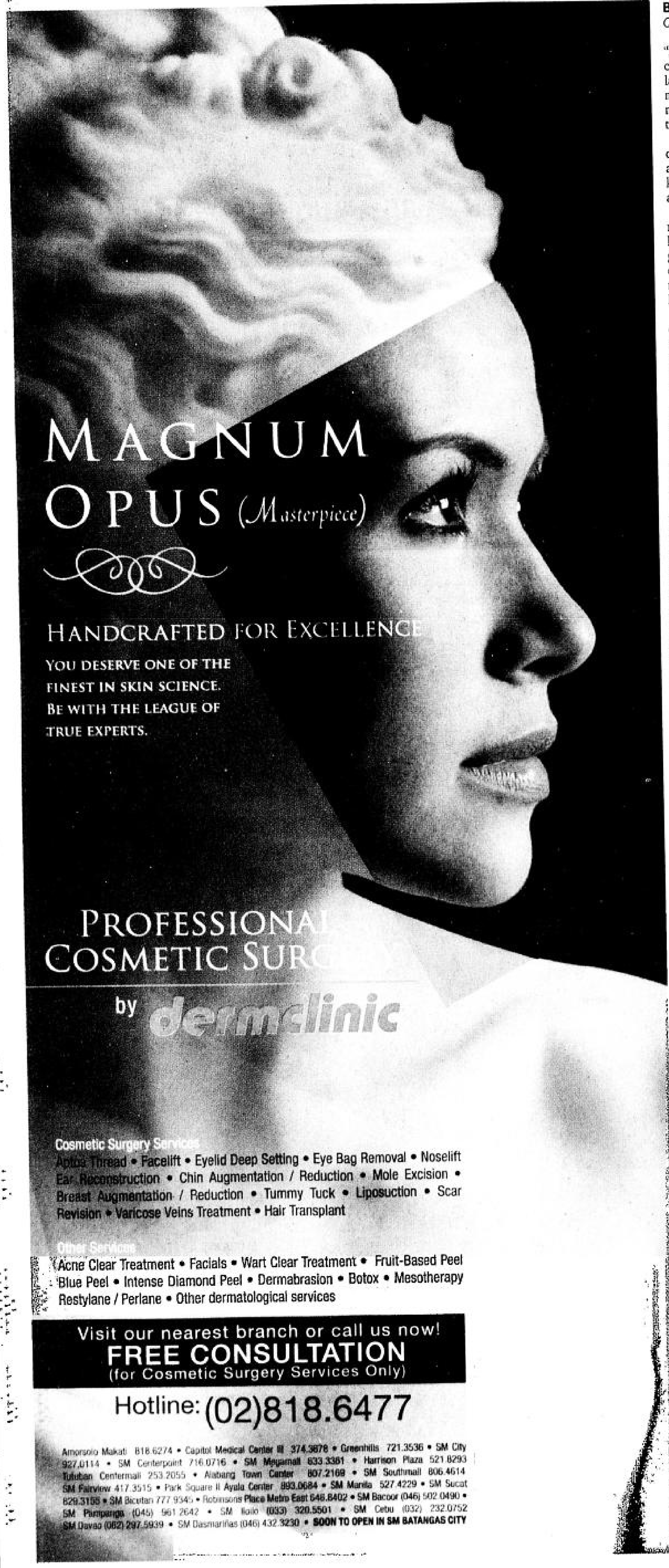
Apparently, his illness has not mellowed him, his art is as hard-hitting as ever. If anything, it has given him yet another kind of sight. In the same manner that he has lighter shows in between those with weighty social themes, the artist ebbs and flows. He's not dour despite ageing (although he claims age has got nothing to do with it), and keeps himself-buoyant by his naughty sense of humor.


"GAASO Aso Nga Kape Kag Mainit Na Monay"


"BABE Lea"


"SAUCE ah"


"WHEN the Smoke is Going Down"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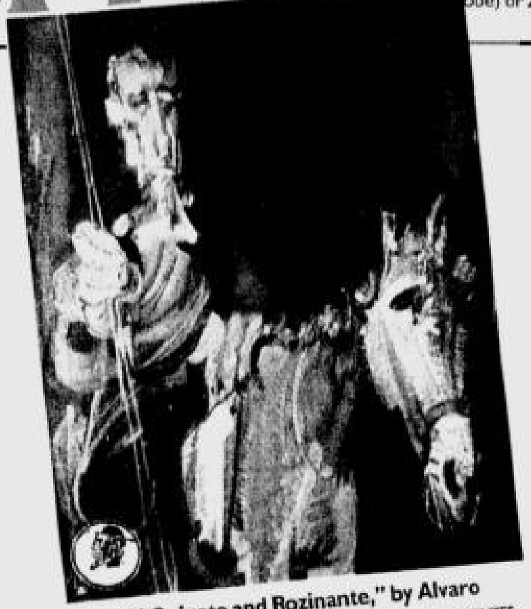
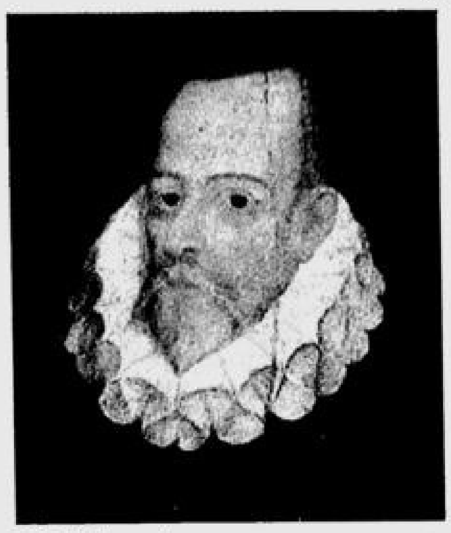


"**DON** Quixote and Rozinante," by Alvaro Delgado
HTTP://WWW.CSDL.TAMU.EDU/CERVANTES



BY J. de Jáuregui
HTTP://WWW.CSDL.TAMU.EDU/CERVANTES

MARIA Lourdes Mendigoria and Violeta Munoz read the spanish version of Don Quijote

Instituto Cervantes celebrates 400 years of Miguel de Cervantes's work with a non-stop reading of the greatest novel of all time

Quixotic fiesta!

Text by Anne Nerissa C. Alina
Contributor
Photos by Rudy Esperas

A PERSON may only last a lifetime, but a story remains forever.

And one story that has withstood time is Miguel de Cervantes' four-century-old tale, "Don Quixote de la Mancha." Its first part was published in 1605 and it has since been considered as the first and the greatest modern novel, amusing and entertaining readers from all walks of life and generations, conquering Europe and eventually, the rest of the world.

Last April 23, those generations converged at the Institute de Cervantes in Manila to read the entire novel continuously for over 48 hours.

By the time they finished the reading on Sunday, Don Quixote had come back from the pages and the centuries, raring to chase windmills and dreams in the next four centuries.

Leading the reading was, of course, Javier Galvan, director of the Instituto, who called the reading a "quixotic fiesta," as well as Amb. Ignacio Sagaz of Spain.

Other readers were ambassadors of the Hispanic states: Jorge Rey Jimenez of Cuba, Mario Schuff of Argentina, Jorge Montero of Chile, Erendita Araceli Paz Campos of Mexico, and of course, Joseph Delano Bernardo of the Philippines.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo was not able to come but he had read the novel on tape, which was played during the vigil.

National Artist Alejandro Roces also read the novel.

Cavalier's tale

Don Quixote, legend claims, was created inside a prison cell in La Mancha, Spain. Born only out of need for some quick buck on the part of Cervantes, the novel not only served its purpose--it paved the way for a new way of storytelling.

Indeed, Cervantes was able to create a satirical comedy that challenged how romance and chivalry tales were told.

The novel cannot be classified among the usual stories of might and right, with gallant knights conquering the forces of evil dragons, monsters and sorcerers.

Rather, it tells the story of a person with the same knightly ideals but without the standard clear distinction between good and evil.

Cervantes, according to critics, initiated the use of colloquial language to depict this most unique parody of a knight-errant and his ubiquitous squire.

NICOLE Louise Villacorta, 17, of British School Manila read the Spanish version of "Don Quijote"

FR. ANGEL Aparicio

This technique, along with the satirical and unconventional plot, reached out to the public, and almost instantly gained fame and recognition.

Never did anyone expect that such a literary masterpiece could ever come from a simple, maimed soldier, who would eventually be considered as the king of all prose fiction.

In his novel, Cervantes not only showed the heroism of chivalry and blinded idealism, he also illustrated the makings of 17th century Spain.

The characters behind the delusional Don Quixote were common men with practical approaches to life—shepherds, governors, wenches and innkeepers, who dismiss knights and adventures as mere fancies and follies.

The novel also demonstrated the politics within Spanish society, and has been seen as an indirect mockery of the Catholic Church, which has through the ages, however, been the first to exalt the novel as Catholic fiction at its best.

At the top of the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, the oldest university in Asia, is the statue of Cervantes by the famous Italian sculptor Francesco Monti. "Don Quixote" is also included in such courses as World Literature and Modern Catholic Literature in UST, a pontifical university.

QUIXOTIC/ D2

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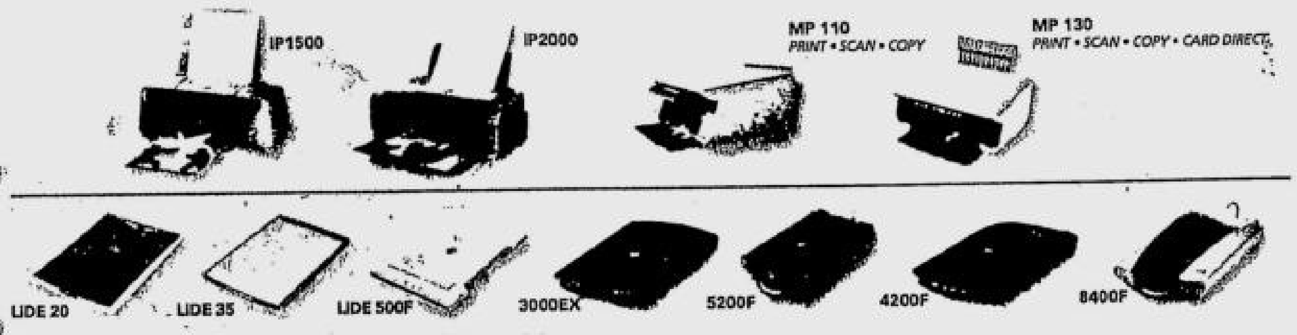

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‘K.I.A.’ pride

“K.I.A. Vol. I, Kai: Indomitable Assassin”
Created by Marco Dimaano
2005, 160 pages

By Ruel S. De Vera

The sexy, stealthy assassin from the pages of ‘Angel Ace’ comes into her own in this action-packed comic anthology

EVEN when Marco Dimaano introduced her as the preeminent rival to the titular begoggled super-heroine in his “Angel Ace” comic book, the raven-haired, flinty-eyed assassin Kai Mishima (a.k.a. Agent K) always stood out from her introduction very early in the series.

Unlike the cookie-cutter, super-powered protagonist, Kai had a darker, edgier side to her, as Agent K had lost her memory and was all business all the time. Dimaano portrayed her as a rather thoughtful, intelligent and ultimately tragic figure, one that seemingly met her doom near the end of the last arc, “Angel Ace Next.”

Now Agent K steps into the limelight, obviously alive and very much kicking (and stabbing and chopping, among other deadly movements). The self-published “K.I.A. Vol. I, Kai: Indomitable Assassin” features 13 short stories plus pinups in an affordable, black-and-white manga-sized anthology.

Dimaano writes most of the stories and illustrates three of them. Meanwhile, he has assembled a talented roster of other writers and artists to join in what is effectively an assassin’s jam: Gerry Alanguilan, Dean Alfar, Nikki Alfar, Jeremy Arambulo, Arnold Arre, Michael Banting, Chad Cabrera, Karen Cheung, Joel Chua, Andrew Drilon, Honoel Ibardolaza, Jon Mallari, Marvin del Mundo, Elbert Or, Jennyson Rosero, Michael Seludo, Edgar Tadeo, Taga-ilog, Wilson Tortosa and Anthony Yap, indeed a murderer’s row of Filipino comic talent.

“K.I.A.” effectively provides not only the further adventures of Agent K and a satisfying explanation of her otherwise surprising survival following her apparent death. In “K.I.A.,” we see Agent K at her busiest, doing the one thing she knows: killing.

From ingenious new ways of getting to the target to having to dispose of entire gangs of opponents, “K.I.A.” gives what amounts to a workaday view of Kai as the consummate professional. We will doubtlessly see more of these elements in the anthology’s future installments as Dimaano uncovers more of Kai’s back story.

Strong art

Dimaano’s clean, strong art combines western comic book influences and a more obvious manga effect: the resulting product really is something else altogether. It is funny and sardonic at times, and grimly action-oriented at other times. Indeed, “K.I.A.” is a survey of the hitperson at work, so it is fiercely, unapologetically violent with much bloodshed and graphic blade work.

It’s always something else when Dimaano gets to write and illustrate the adventures of his darker creation. There is a fluidity, a focused intensity, even delight to Dimaano’s handling of Kai’s stories in “The New Girl,” “Mouse Trap” and the essential “A Shock To The System,” all welcome departures from the cheerful escapism of “Angel Ace.”

There’s the tragic anime-flavored “Dreamkiller” and the cartoon-laced “Battery Included.” The edgiest story is “Zindernuef,” which refers to both Kai’s inner fears and some of the unseen dynamics of the K.A.L.I. organization.

The book’s depth is also derived from the fact that Kai herself is a compassionate lady liquidator—a contradiction she lives with constantly, particularly when it comes to the up-and-comers who seek her place as the top assassin. And the book’s energy comes from Kai’s acrobatic dance of death as her killer moves fly across the page like spinning shurikens.

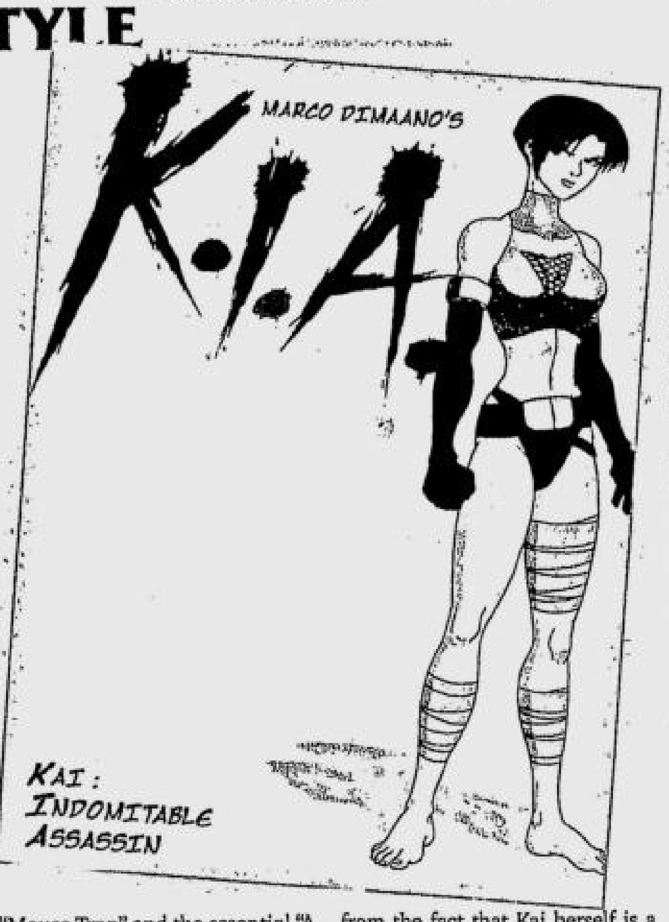
Similarly, “K.I.A.” also shines with the combined diversity of its cast of capable contributors, be they writers or artists. The varying styles and interpretations of Agent K maximize the power of this particular format, with something for everyone.

The revelation of “K.I.A” is artist Jennyson Rosero, whose story, “Intercept,” vibrates with dynamism and elegance. A tale of Kai’s escape with a purloined item from a well-guarded building, “Intercept” is the story that skews most closely to Japanese manga conventions as well as a taste of the evolution of a beloved character as portrayed by others, done to great effect.

With a few witty light moments thrown into the mix and Dimaano confidently leading the cast behind a fabulous character now deservedly on her own, “K.I.A. Vol. I” deploys solid, unabashed butt-kicking action in a world where the killer ladies have killer bodies, the battles are furious and all the roads available are forked.

Dimaano ties all the disparate stories together, weaving the tangents and the mythology into a very efficient book with different looks, much like Agent K herself, a hitwoman with all the right moves.

Available from all Comic Quest branches.



Iligan national writing fellows named

FIFTEEN writing fellows have been named to the 12th Iligan National Writers Workshop.

They are: from Luzon, Rosandrei M. Ladignon (play/English/Quezon City/UP Manila); Maria Abigael M. Malonzo(play/Filipino/San Fernando, Pampanga/UP Diliman); Jose Jason L. Chancoco (poetry/Filipino/Naga City/Ateneo de Naga); Vladimeir B. Gonzales (Fiction/Filipino/Quezon City/UP Diliman); Virgilio A. Rivas (Poetry/English//Quezon City/Polythecnic University of the Philippines).

Visayas: Roger B. Rueda(Fiction/English/Iloilo City/West Visayas State University); Bryan Mari Argos (Poetry/Hiligaynon/Roxas City/St. Anthony College of Roxas City); Marcel M. Milliam (Poetry/Hiligaynon/Roxas City/St. Anthony College of Roxas City); Jennibeth R. Loro (Poetry/Cebuano/Merida, Leyte/UP Visayas-Tacloban College); Dennis M. Ravas (Poetry/English/Tacloban City/Pontifical University of the Holy Cross).

Mindanao: Jamila Ruth A. Hojas (Poetry/English/Iligan City/MSU-Iligan Institute of Technology); Charisse Mae T. Ampo(Poetry/Cebuano/Bislig City/UP Mindanao); Jose Y. Tomacruz (Poetry/Hiligaynon/Davao City/University of Santo Tomas); Telesforo Sungkit Jr. (Fiction/Filipino/Sumilao, Bukidnon/UP Los Banos); Grace S. Uddin (Fiction/Filipino/Tagum City/UP Mindanao).

Panelists this year are Jaime An Lim, Rosario Cruz Lucero, Leoncio P. Deriada, Timothy Montes, German V. Gervacio, Erlinda Kintanar Alburo, Merlie M. Alunan, Gumercindo M. Rafanan, Steven Patrick C. Fernandez,

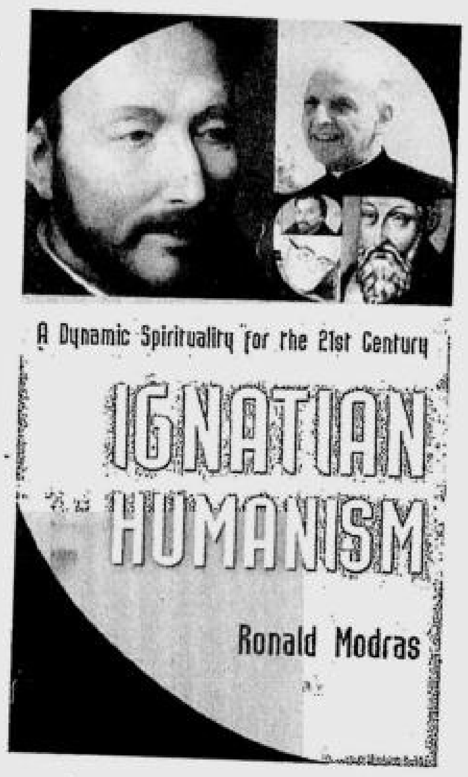
Keynote lecturer is novelist Vicente G. Groyon.

Workshop director is Christine Godinez-Ortega.

Highlights of the workshop are the Third Jimmy Y. Balacuit Memorial Literary Awards and the launching of the proceedings of the 11th INWW titled “Writing in a Time of Terror and the (Mis)management of Grief,” published by the MSU-IIT OVCRE, edited by Godinez-Ortega and with an introduction by Fernandez.

Sponsors are the Mindanao Creative Writers Group, Inc., National Commission for Culture and Arts, and MSU-IIT, with the cooperation of the Iligan City Government under Mayor Lawrence Lluch Cruz, San Miguel Corp., Nature Spring Waters, Chowking, Jollibee and Dunkin’ Donuts.

Workshop sessions will be in the Elena Tower Inn, the MSU-IIT Board Room and the Macaraeg-Macapagal Museum’s Conference Hall.



A spirituality for all times

AN INTREPID explorer in the East, a staunch defender of women, a theologian, a paleontologist, a champion of justice: What do these five men, from different climes and times, have in common?

The answer may not be too obvious at first, but upon reading Ronald Modras’ new book, “Ignatian Humanism,” we may yet understand what brings these five very different individuals together.

Modras, a professor of theology at Saint Louis University in Missouri, sifts through history, philosophy and theology to discover the characteristics of what he calls Ignatian Humanism, a spirituality that spurs action and changes the way we relate with God.

Modras looks to these five very different men, all Jesuits, and sees how the influence of Ignatius’ spirit galvanizes them into effecting change in the world.

Mateo Ricci followed the path of Francis Xavier into China to become the first Westerner at the court of the Chinese emperor. Friedrich Spee, through his writings, challenged the witch trials of the seventeenth century, reminding his peers of the importance of charity and forgiveness.

Karl Rahner brought theology to bear on the problems of the contemporary world, helping others understand the mysteries of our faith, and becoming known as one of the greatest theologians of the 20th century. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin dialogued with the evolutionary science of his time to show a way to come to know Christ through the patterns of nature. Pedro Arrupe led the Society of Jesus into a renewal of their mission and spirit, inspiring them to bring more justice into the world, especially in the years after Vatican II.

Vividly written and meticulously researched, “Ignatian Humanism” provides a glimpse into the lives of these extraordinary men driven by an extraordinary spirit, and helps readers discover a dynamic spirituality for their time and for all times.

The book is published in the Philippines by Jesuit Communications and available at Tanging Yaman stores at the Ateneo de Manila University in Loyola Heights, QC; SM Megamall, SM North Edsa and at all leading bookstores nationwide. Call 4265971 to 72.

The facts behind ‘Angels and Demons’

MILLIONS of readers have avidly pored through Dan Brown’s “Angels and Demons”—a world filled with ancient Christian symbolism, secret societies and pagan signs. But many have been left wondering what’s fact and fiction. Those looking for the real story behind the legend of the Illuminati will find the answers in Illuminating “Angels and Demons.”

Written by Simon Cox, the author of “Cracking the Da Vinci Code” and a well-known lecturer described by the BBC as a “historian of the obscure,” this book offers a treasure trove of fascinating facts and revelations. Among the hundreds of entries are information on Galileo, the Papal Conclave, Gianlorenzo Bernini, the New World Order, Obelisks, Knights Templar, the Freemasons, Lucifer and much more.

Available at National Book Store.

Romance title series to raffle off car

FOLLOWING its successful Nokia 3650 raffle promotion, Bookware Publishing Corp. announces a new promotion for the readers of its My Special Valentine (MSV) pocketbooks. The Kia Picanto raffle starts this month with three quarterly draws before the grand draw. Other prizes include cell phones and household appliances.

The first set of MSV titles with the rules and coupons for the raffle has been released: “Promise Me,” “Promises of Love 1: Ang Larawan Mo,” “Hanggang Kailan,” “Never Trust a Stranger,” “Prinsesa,” “My Sweet Revenge,” “Kung Kailan Wala Ka Na,” “Love Me Tonight,” “Ikaw na Lang Kaya,” “Stolen Love,” “Una at Huli” and “Strangers In Love.”

The promotion, which is also open to the readers of MSV Classics Illustrated, ends on Jan. 31, 2006. Call 6318894.

Congress panel passes bill creating trust fund for authors

HOUSE Bill 1531, which seeks to create a National Book Development Trust Fund especially for struggling Filipino authors, was recently approved without amendments by the basic education committee chaired by Marinduque Rep. Edmundo Reyes Jr.

Authored by Iloilo City representative Raul Gonzalez Jr., HB 1531 directs the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office to contribute P50 million each for the seed money of the program.

The program aims to promote the welfare of local authors, especially unknown yet talented ones in the regions, by supporting them financially so that they can work full-time on their manuscripts and researches.

The bill came out of the findings of a 2003 study commissioned by the National Book Development Board, the country’s lead government agency on book development and readership promotion.

Most regional or provincial authors, the study revealed, usually begin work on manuscripts or research projects that take too long to finish or are abandoned altogether because of financial difficulties.

Now, under HB 1531, the trust fund will give out at least 65 grants every year to authors, writers and researchers throughout the country. The measure is expected to support works on science and technology, local history and subject areas wherein locally authored books are few or non-existent.

It also aims to facilitate the development of stories and books for children that reflect Filipino culture and inspire pride in local history and national identity.

Gonzales said that with the trust fund, regional and provincial authors would no longer labor in anonymity and suffer financial constraints while completing their works.

NBDB, the designated administrator of the fund, expects a dramatic increase in its 150-strong author-registrants once the bill becomes a law.

Pública
Quijote en Asia

INSTITUTO Cervantes is holding a series of activities to commemorate the 400th anniversary of "Don Quixote de La Mancha"

Quixotic fiesta!

From page D1

Reliving history

Today, the story of Don Quixote and his unpredictable adventures is still very much read and loved.

Indeed, despite today’s high-tech and cyber-age entertainment, the book still outsells other books in major bookstores.

As the book turns 400 this year, the story of Don Quixote is even more celebrated around the world.

Spain’s cultural arm in Manila, Instituto Cervantes, commemorates Don Quixote’s anniversary through various activities and events.

Four different film interpretations of the satiric tale, from the 1933 classic of Georg-Wilhelm Pabst to the more realistic 2000 interpretation of Peter Yates, plus a screening of the opera, "Don Quijote en Barcelona," have been shown.

Last April 5, the Don Quijote: Music and Dance conference-performance was held with performances from Mexican envoy and composer Delfin Colomé and the renowned soprano Rachelle Gerodias, also a faculty member at the UST Conservatory of Music.

Aside from the screenings and the performances, Instituto hosted the first Non-Stop-Around-the-Clock Public Reading of Don Quixote last April 22-24.

Believed to be the best way to pay tribute to the novel, the public reading consisted of all 126 chapters, or 1,072 pages, and more than 50 hours of continuous reading.

Over 500 participants joined the event, including former tourism secretary Gemma Cruz-Araneta, INQUIRER editor in chief Isagani Yambot, and Filipino and foreign students.

The University of Santo Tomas, atop whose main building has the statue of Cervantes, was represented by the Spanish Dominicans, notably Fr. Angel Aparicio, UST’s prefect of libraries.

After 400 years, Don Quixote has certainly gone a long way. With just a rusty armor, a cardboard helmet visor, an old worthless horse, and a trusty sidekick, Don Quixote de la Mancha was able to conquer world literature.

Don Quixote continues to live on, in the hearts and minds of readers now and in the future.

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WHY, IT'S LIKE HONG KONG ON TRANQUILIZERS!
TO A SMALLER WAISTLINE, A HEALTHY HEART—AND BETTER SEX LIFE
MAKE ACNE, DARK CIRCLES, BODY SCARS AND BRUISES DISAPPEAR—THE EXPERTS' WAY

METRO presents the best shoes, bags, watches, jewelry and sunglasses available in the market in the magazine's accessories special this May. It also teaches readers how to look good in different kinds of skirt with a 16-page fashion spread shot entirely in Macau.

Award-winning writer Lourd Ernest de Veyra pens an engaging essay on the former Portugese colony. "They say you go to Macau for three primary reasons: to eat, to shop for antiques and to gamble... Considering the recent developments, it's no longer confined to these activities," he writes.

Also in the May issue of Metro: belly dancing—it's the hottest dance and workout craze in Manila today; who's doing it, what to wear while doing it and where you can do it:

Plus: How belly dancing can improve your sex life.

Metro writer Joy Rojas, the first Filipina to run across the Philippines, writes about how the 46-day ultramarathon changed her life. Readers this month can also win P50,000 worth of gift certificates from Marks & Spencer.

Metro is available nationwide. Call 4152852.

Guide to second-hand building materials in Metro Home

SO YOU'RE thinking of building a house or enhancing your garden? It doesn't have to be expensive or boring.

By buying second-hand wood and building materials, you not just save on costs, you also get unique materials such as exquisitely carved wooden doors and wrought iron grilles, or even *calado* wood pieces used in old houses.

Where can you get such finds? Metro Home & Entertaining finds two popular dealers in town in its newest issue. From bargaining tips to street directions, Home & Entertaining points the discriminating homemaker to these bargain sites.

Also in the new issue, architect Tina Periquet gives 17 ways to bring the temperature down this summer.

Plus 16 gifts for your weekend hosts, a primer on household electricity and how to create murals for your children's room.

Metro Home & Entertaining is available nationwide. Call 4152852.

Call for Asian Literature translations

THE DREADED Poets Society (DPS) is inviting submissions to its first book project, "Sugod, Mga Kadila." All submissions must be original Filipino translations of Asian poetry or short stories from their original languages or English translations. The deadline for accepting manuscripts is on May 15.

Send printed and diskette/CDR copies of the translations to "Sugod, Mga Kadila" at Runes Bar and Restaurant, 265-F Tomas Morato Ave. corner Scout Fernandez St. Quezon City, or to the following e-mails: beckydesiree@gmail.com, clark_militante@yahoo.com and army_craeg@yahoo.com. All submissions must include one page with the translator's name, phone numbers, e-mail and short bio-data.

The DPS earned its name in 2002 when a group of writer-friends staged an anti-war on Iraq open mic at '70s Bistro. After hearing one poetry after another on the ravages of war and empire building, singer-composer Noel Cabangon gave the group the name DPS and the moniker Dreaded.

DPS will contact writers. Nose translations will be selected for the book project on or before June 15. It will not be able to return submitted materials.

Authenticated by Rebecca Lozada, call 0917-5362638 or 4566196.

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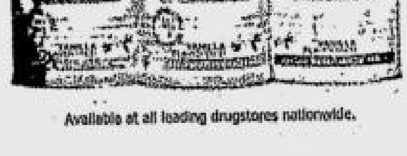
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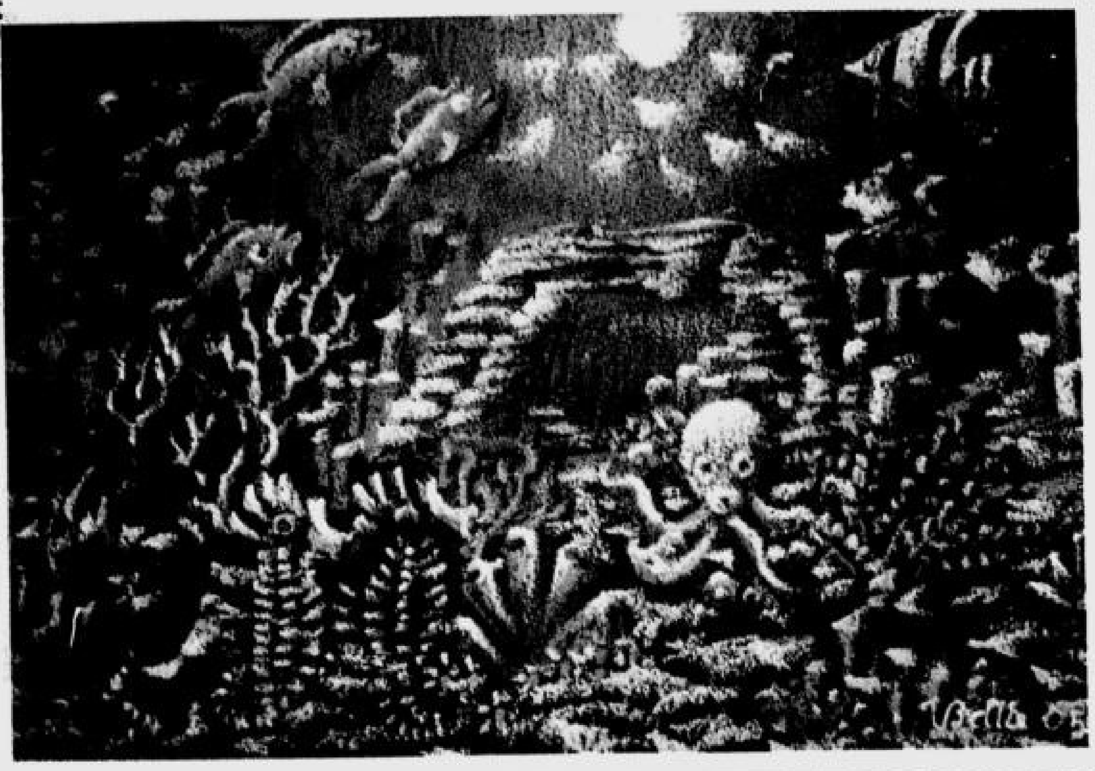

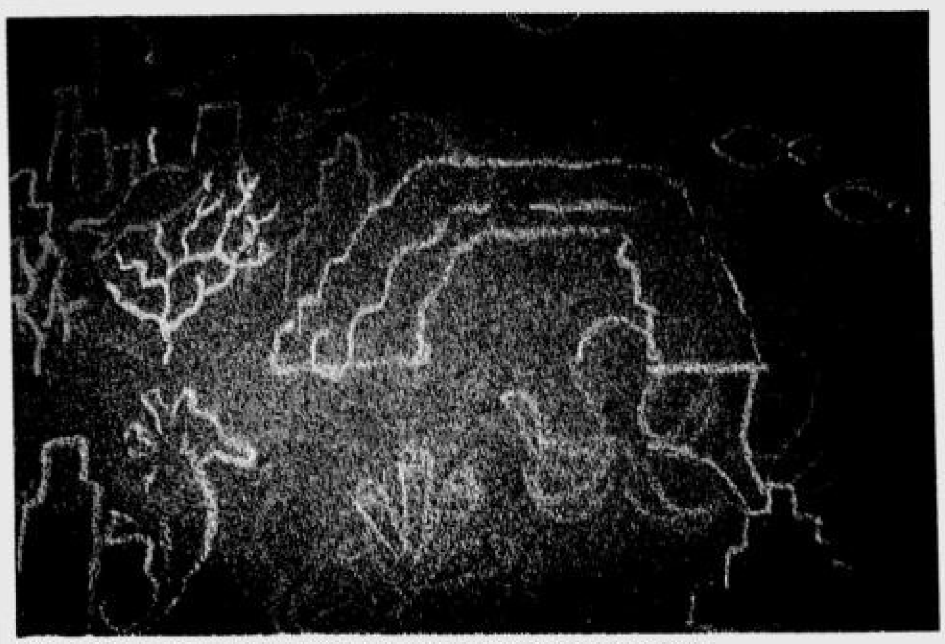

SANDPAPER artwork (left) starting from an outline (top) by Victor Bella

Arts workshops for kids, adults

PAINTER, sculptor, and author Victor Bella, a graduate of fine arts from the Maastricht academy of Visual arts, Holland, is currently offering drawing, animé, painting and sculpture workshops for kids and adults.

Here, he demonstrates his personal approach to drawing using oil pastel on sand paper to create a dramatic underwater scene.

Materials

Oil pastels—36 Colors using Pentel Brand
3 pcs Black Sand Paper—CW 150-180
Underwater Books or Scuba Magazine for Photo References

Step 1

The box of pastels are pre-arranged from light to dark tones. Shading in a horizontal stroke, arrange each set of colors one tone at a time, forming a scale always from dark to light as illustrated in the green tones on the left. Practice making a tonal value scale with the other colors illustrated toward the right.

Practice making a three-dimensional sphere and cube beginning with outlines as used on Step 2. Arrange the tones from dark to light beginning with the background, the foreground, then finally the sphere or cube.

Apply color first from the background, foreground, and the sphere or cube, stroking in the direction of the arrows. Stroke direction is determined by simply following the contour of the object. A blended or softened look is achieved by simply overlapping the lighter tone slightly over the edge of the previous tone.

Step 2

Begin drawing each element using outlines. Use the basic color and choose a medium tone or shade for each background or object.

Step 3

Arrange a map of tones for all objects and the backgrounds using only dark and medium tones. Start with the background, working farthest to nearest using strokes that follow the contour of each object. Gradually work toward the light tones.

Step 4

Add additional tones and arrange like a map. Sharp edges can be softened simply by stroking slightly over the edge of the previously applied darker tone. Objects begin to take shape and show a precise realistic look. Continue to use as many tones. Shadows look better using ultramarine blue, violet or purple. Details and highlights are simply stroked over the darker tone.

Step 5

A magnificent sea life picture is created by finishing with the lightest tone. Sparkling highlights are simply added sparingly over the darker tone of each object. Shadows are enhanced with more blues, violets and a minimal use of black. Edges are sharpened or trimmed.

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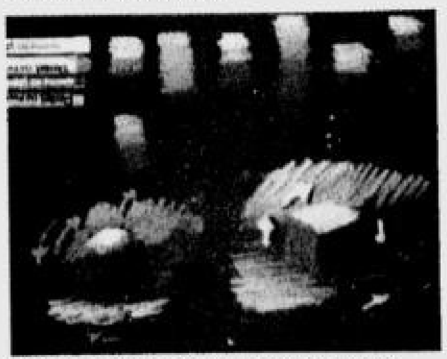

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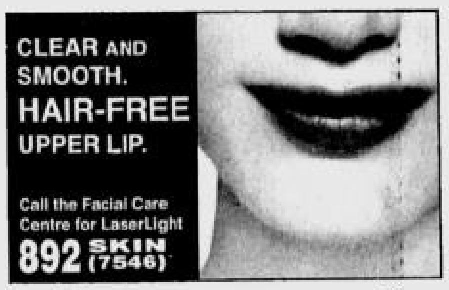
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Hope in these islands

CAST features Jett Pangan, Bituin Escalante and Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo

By Bart Guingona
Contributor

ON A STARLESS night in a hut, a girl cries out in fright and the villagers, huddled against the raging storm outside, assuage her by telling her a story.

OF STAGE

It's a familiar tale, one told often and in many different ways. It is "The Little Mermaid" story of how a girl, very much like the frightened little girl, survives a raging storm much like this one, and falls in love with a boy she rescues, a boy who belongs to another world.

These fisherfolk from a fabled Caribbean land pray by dancing to the gods, dancing "just to stay alive" even as another world across the island, the world of the rich, the *beaux homme* (beautiful ones), dance at parties and eat cake.

We've been rehearsing "Once on This Island" for roughly about a month now and the parallels between our country and the fabled Caribbean one keep hitting me like curve balls at full speed. No wonder this is a particularly popular musical in our country.

The divide between rich and poor, the ethnic prejudices, the necessity of dance and song and humor to salve to scarred existences—these and the disdain and cynicism of the privileged minority for the teeming unwashed "heathen" are parallels that send shivers of recognition down my spine.

Set in a fabled Caribbean island, "Once on This Island" could also have been set in Bacolod or Cebu or any of the nameless, feudal turfs that dot our islands.

Wonderful cast

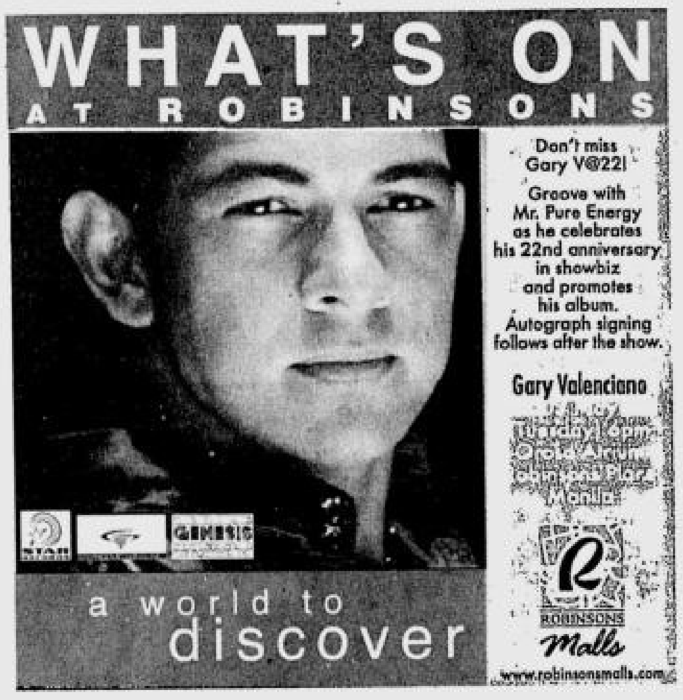
But the parallels end there. I have assembled the most wonderful cast and team of collaborators that I have any memory of working with since, well, perhaps "The Last Five Years," but then of course you might call me biased.

Tell me, though, that a cast with Bituin Escalante, Jett Pangan, Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo, Michael Williams, Bodgie Pascua, Jeffrey Hidalgo, May Bayot, Cathy Azanza, Radha, Raki Vega and Michael de Mesa is not impressive. And a team with Gino Gonzales, John Batalla, Rony Fortich and Denisa Reyes isn't enviable. I dare you to tell me so.

But I say the parallels between our country and this mythical land in the play end there

HOPE/ E2

> Set in a fabled Caribbean island, 'Once on This Island' could also have been set in Bacolod or Cebu or any of the nameless, feudal turfs that dot our islands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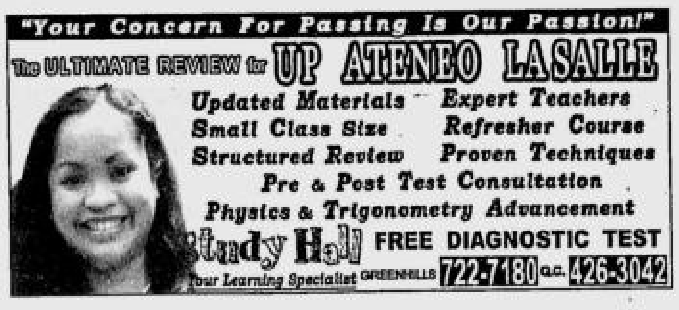
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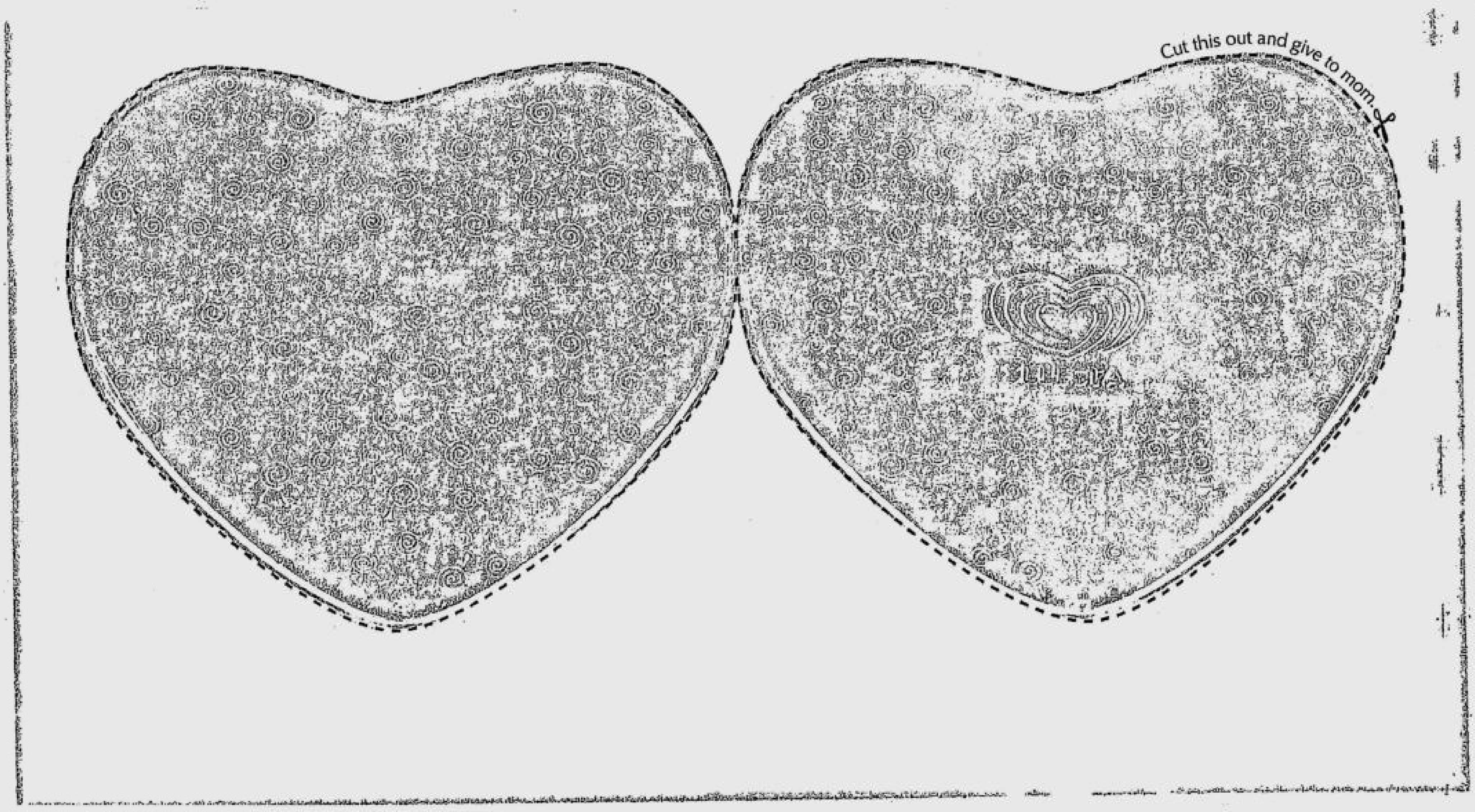

Cut this out and give to mom.

EDUCATION REVOLUTION

MSU brings another 'revolution' to ARMM

By Butch Hernandez
Contributor

TEACHERS are like sunlight breaking through storm clouds; their presence is a sign of better things to come.

The need for more competent teachers is deeply felt in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). Poverty and the threat of armed conflict have denied many children here of their only real option for a brighter future: a good education.

But there are teachers who have chosen to stay and teach in ARMM. In spite of limited resources and a learning environment that is far from ideal, their commitment has not wavered as they help keep the dreams and aspirations of the people of Mindanao alive.

Many of these teachers come from the Mindanao State University (MSU).

Agreement

Recently, Dr. Maria Lim Ayuyao, president of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power (FWWPP), traveled to Marawi City to sign an agreement with Camar Umpa, president of MSU, and Dr. Amor de Torres, president of the Philippine Association for Teacher Education (Pafte). It signaled the start of the Education Revolution in ARMM.

The FWWPP has now gained a strong ally to bring quality education to public schools in ARMM.

The MSU system's College of Education is the training ground of future educators in the region.

The FWWPP's Education Revolution, meanwhile, has a unique teacher formation program called Mentoring the Mentors, which has been widely accepted in the other regions where it has been introduced.

Key implementors

By joining the Education Revolution, MSU, together with Pafte ARMM, becomes a key implementor of the Mentoring the Mentors program within its own system and with other groups wishing to embark on lasting education improvement in ARMM.

The FWWPP spearheaded the breakthrough implementation of the Mentoring the Mentors program in ARMM for 115 participants from various MSU campuses and teachers from elementary and secondary schools.

Dr. Evelyn Mejillano, Mentoring the Mentors national coordinator, said that, at the start of the sessions, participants were asked to list down issues that prevented teachers from bringing out the best in their students. Through a carefully calibrated series of exercises, interspersed with inward reflection, participants methodically dealt with the issues they themselves raised.

The sessions ended with participants making time-based commitments to make qualitative changes in themselves as teachers and among their peers in their respective campuses.

DR. BUTCHIE Ayuyao (second from right), Dr. Evelyn Mejillano, Dr. Amor de Torres and FWWPP facilitator Kate Villaruz (fourth, fifth and sixth from right) go ethnic during the fellowship night at the end of the Mentoring the Mentors sessions.

'Booklatan' in Sultan Kudarat

By Kimberley Colinares
Contributor

WITH its primary aim of improving readership rates in the country, the National Book Development Board's (NBDB) Readership Promotion Program or "Booklatan" was recently held in Sultan Kudarat, at the Punta Isla Resort, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato.

Made possible through the efforts of the Sultan Kudarat Province Sangguniang Panlalawigan and Sangguniang Kabataan together with the NBDB, the project was divided into two events.

The first event was the Community-based Readership Training. Held for two days, it featured speaker Patria Cordero from the Reading Association of the Philippines. A total of 42 participants, including municipal and barangay reading center librarians, daycare teachers and English teachers from grade school to high school, joined the training program, which focused on presenting new concepts and strategies in book readership and storytelling.

As a response to the orientation given, plans of action to be done by the local librarians and teachers were drawn up. These included storytelling sessions from May to December, a fun run for literacy and a book fair in September, a share-a-book project in June, and, finally, a visit to the NBDB office in October for a round-table meeting to present the status report.

Another offshoot of the training was the establishment of the Sultan Kudarat chapter of the Reading Association of the Philippines.

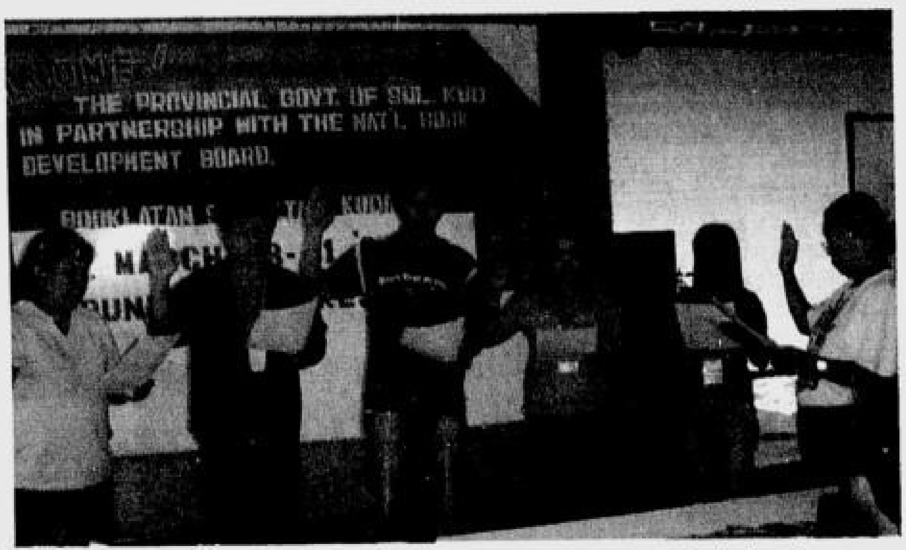
The Seminar on Barangay Reading Center Administration, the second event held on the last day of the "Booklatan," had four vice governors included in the 104 participants, which exceeded the expected number by half. National Library executive director Prudenciana Cruz spoke about effective management of public reading centers in the community.

The talk also encouraged the local government to establish a library in its area as stated in Republic Act 7743. This mandated the establishment of congressional, city and municipal libraries and barangay reading centers throughout the country through the joint efforts of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Philippine Information Agency and the National Library.

DILG provincial director Usop T. Kesal was also there to talk about the role of the agency in building a barangay reading center for the people of Sultan Kudarat.

The local government, spearheaded by Hon. Datu Pax S. Mangdadatu, likewise showed great support and interest in establishing a provincial mobile library for its area.

Maricar Trinidad-Aquino, deputy executive director of the NBDB, gave the opening and closing remarks for the program. She also handed out certificates for the participants who came.


THE PROVINCIAL GOVT. OF SUL. KUD
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NAT'L BOOK
DEVELOPMENT BOARD

NEWLY elected officers of the Reading Association of the Philippines take their oaths as heads of the Sultan Kudarat chapter.

A CARIBBEAN musical that is especially liked in the Philippines

Hope in these islands

From page E1

because whereas myopic self-preservation has become the norm in much of our archipelago, the peasants of the village think in terms of the propagation of their collective community.

No wonder they say politics and show business are kindred in the Philippines. They both operate on ego. They both engender self-promotion and self-preservation. And they rule our lives in these islands.

Since many of these people in my cast work with mainstream show business, I had no idea what to expect, the egos I had to deal with, the kind of adjustments I would have had to make.

Now, you look at the substantial weight of these cast members in the industry, and I wouldn't blame you for saying "Hello, ego country! Good luck, production!"

But here we are telling the story of a community fighting to stay alive against the ravages of a storm. Here we are telling the little girl, and the audience and ourselves that weathering the storm means pulling together to weave our collective consciousness into something we can be proud of—our stories and our histories.

Here we are telling the story of a community that understands the idea that "self-preservation" should mean the same thing as "propagation of the species." And lo and behold! Here we are defying the universally accepted notion of Filipinos as myopic and egocentric.

Lessons

In short we are learning the lessons of the story that we ourselves are tasked to tell.

I look at Bituin and Michael Williams and Jeffrey and Jett and Radha undergoing the most torturous choreography rehearsals you can imagine, and I think to myself, what the heck are these stars doing this to themselves for? I look at Mike de Mesa struggling to lift Gala Sanchez (Little Ti Moune) up on his shoulders and I am awestruck. Stars don't behave this way!

I look at Kristian Lei who played Kim in "Miss Saigon" in Germany, learning her steps with Raki, and theater veterans Cathy Azanza, Red Nuestro and Ring Antonio earnestly learning the other parts so that they can teach whoever might be absent later, and my mind is blown by the selflessness I am witnessing.

I look at this cast toiling and thinking and enthusiastically contributing to the creative process like the stakeholders that they've decided to be, and I think to myself, almost in disbelief, "My god, it is possible! It's possible for groups of us Filipinos to get together, put all egos aside and work toward telling one story, contributing personal excellence in the pursuit of a collective objective."

It is a story that's been told, that is constantly being retold just like many of those stories we've turned a deaf ear to. They're all around us, these stories. Little tales of goodness and triumph and determination and, yes, of survival against all odds.

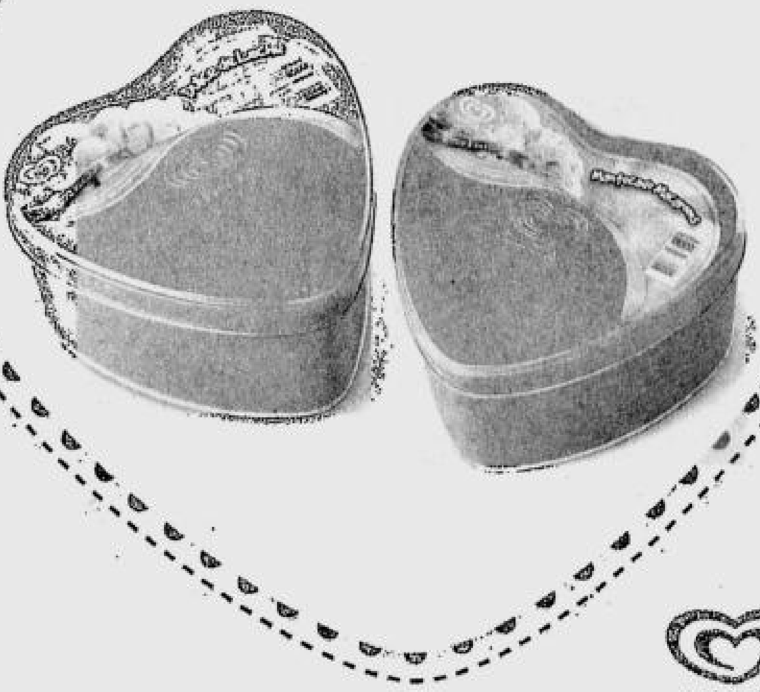
They've always been there for us to learn from, just like the story that the village folk use to assuage the little girl crying out on a stormy night. These stories have always been there for us to take and learn from if only we made the effort to hear them again once in a while.

Why we in the theater tell the story is not so we can indulge in some self-aggrandizement and star turns. We tell the story because without it, we lose ourselves and our ability to survive as a people.

We in the theater, like we in these islands, tell the story, no matter how often told, because the telling itself is necessary. Necessary *para sa amin, para sa inyo, para sa atin.* For us exclusively, for you exclusively, for all of us, collectively.

We tell the story, and in these rehearsals, as in every night of "Once on This Island," there are no stars, only storytellers.

"Once on This Island" opens on May 13 and plays Fridays, Saturdays at 8 p.m. with matinees on May 15 and 29 (closing) at 3 p.m. at the RCBC Plaza Carlos P. Romulo Theater, Ayala Ave., Makati City. Call TicketWorld at 8919999.



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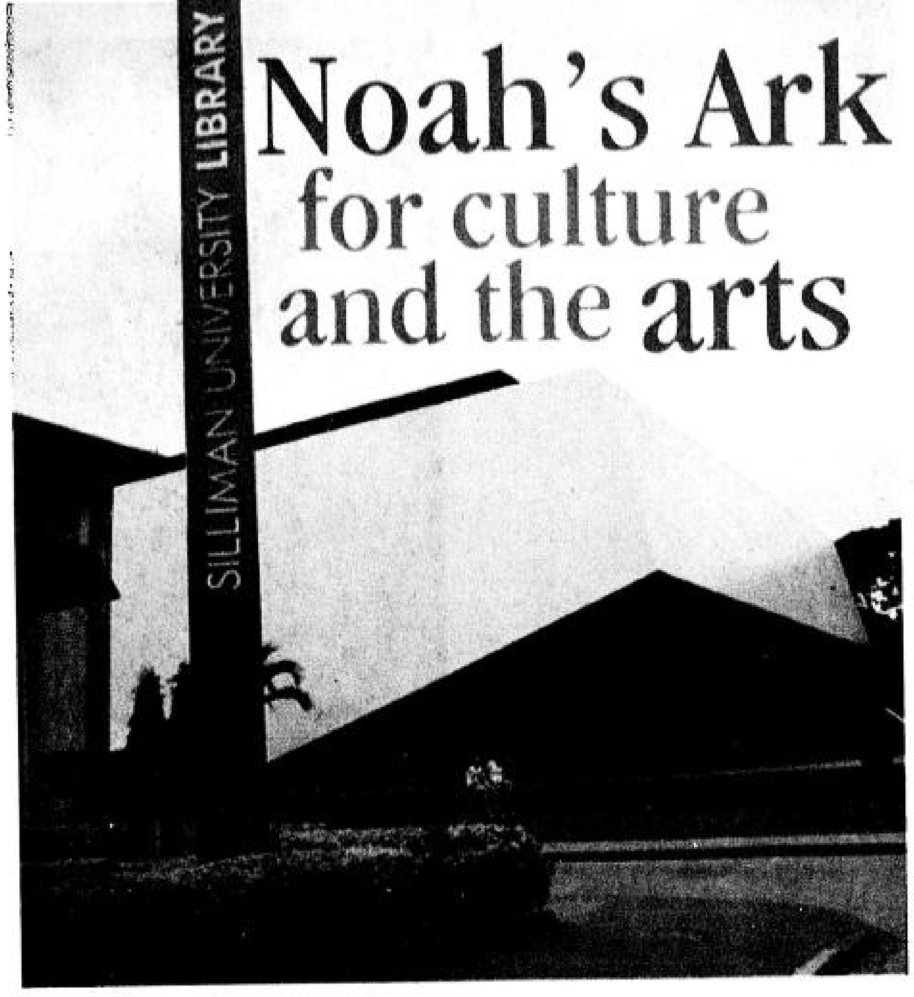
Noah's Ark for culture and the arts

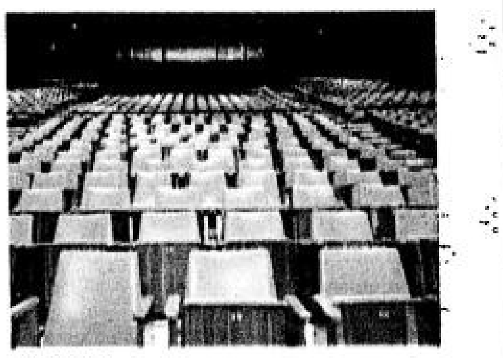


SIDEVIEW

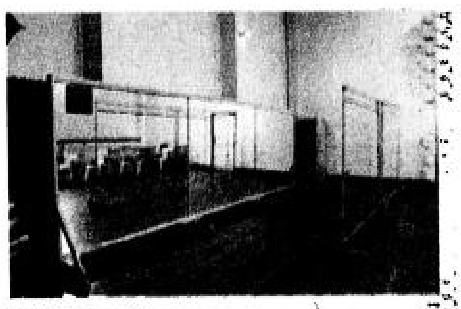
GREEN room

AUDITORIUM Proscenium

Silliman University's Luce Auditorium shows how cultural promotion in this country is private-sector-led



INTERIOR



BALLET studio

By Christine Godinez-Ortega
Photos by Bobby Timonera

THE ZING of arrows from local archers on one's heels and of tennis players and students rushing about for ball or cultural bell—I imagined these all over again when I stopped by my alma mater, Silliman University in Dumaguete City.

Sitting on an imaginary dock of the bay, Silliman's Claire Isabel Mc Gill Luce Auditorium, or Luce Auditorium for short, is often seen as a ship's hull. The architect Orwel Theodore Obach thinks so too; it is like Noah's ark moored, waiting for the tide to rise, the whites against the fringes of its buttresses like gathering sea foam.

Considered the best cultural center outside the Metro Manila area 30 years after it was completed in 1974, Luce Auditorium was built from a donation by the Luce Foundation and contributions from alumni and friends during the incumbency of Silliman president Cicero D. Calderon.

Calderon's building projects were later implemented by acting president Proceso U. Udarbe. Despite delays, he was able to realize the dream of a cultural center complex, whose plans had been drawn up as early as the 1940s.

Impressed by Silliman's various projects, Henry Luce III and his wife Claire Isabel offered to help during their 1968 visit at Silliman. The Luces were the first university visitors to be transported by a presidential plane to Dumaguete. Then President Ferdinand Marcos later invited the Luces, publishers of Time, Life and Fortune magazines, as his guests in Malacañang.

The struggles to realize the dream of a cultural center was, in the words of Luce, who returned to Silliman to inaugurate the auditorium in 1974, "to improve the world... and our lives in it" for "the Christian emphasis on education stems from the teaching that Christ helps those who help themselves; that individuals can effect improvements, that improvements do lead to progress."

How ironic that it had to take the vision of a private institution and the generosity of another private entity to provide a house for the cultural soul of a people amid the blossoming of basketball courts in the country for a game that Filipinos could never excel in.

If Filipinos need to "shoot that ball", why not build a "cultural ball" to raise tastes that have, by far for the majority, confined themselves to gyrations forming "*otso-otso*" and songs using "*bulaklak*" and "*sasakyan*" as cheap symbols that appeal to the low-brow who cheer "silicone beauties" displaying themselves in Congress.

Government must listen and emphasize culture and arts in its education of Juan and Juana de la Cruz. It must begin with nurturing a love for our own and the classics.

Private sponsorship

But it is the private universities and business establishments outside Metro Manila that have taken the lead in building cultural centers in this country.

This example of a good mission from the private sector has given meaning to generations of Sillimanians who have known what it was like to line up with their season tickets, for a show one hour before curtain time and to follow house rules strictly. No one is that privileged, not any university president or politician, who is allowed to claim his upholstered seat from 923 arranged in tiers, if he is late.

Except for a few stains on the white paint on the Auditorium's cantilevered façade held up by six concrete pillars, the missing bird's nests on the ledges atop the adobe-finished buttresses and the darker tint of a glass panel on its glass-enclosed lobby, casualty of a schoolboy's skateboard, the building looked much the same.

Inside, the auditorium has a 16x9x19-meter proscenium stage, a batten system for stage lighting, draperies and backdrop; a Rank Strand lighting equipment controlled from a Rank Strand Preset lighting control console with an 80-channel capacity, and state-of-the-art sound system.

Located toward the side and backstage areas are the Green Room, the Men and Women's Dressing Rooms; a Piano Room; the Ballet Studio, the faculty manager, the architect Leonel de Jesus' office; and the storage areas for props and costumes.

As a boy, De Jesus used to play around the excavation where the auditorium's foundation was built and saw the rise of the auditorium. Today he waits for something more urgent, the approval for a proposal to acquire more sound and lighting equipment and house facilities like drinking fountains, a water pump and brand new air-conditioning units with an 85-ton capacity for the auditorium.

The proposal for an endowment fund of $100,000 to be given in two installments over a two-year period has yet to be acted upon. But the wait is a small price to pay. Enshrined in every Sillimanian's heart is the love for culture and arts that every Filipino has as government sets right its priorities.

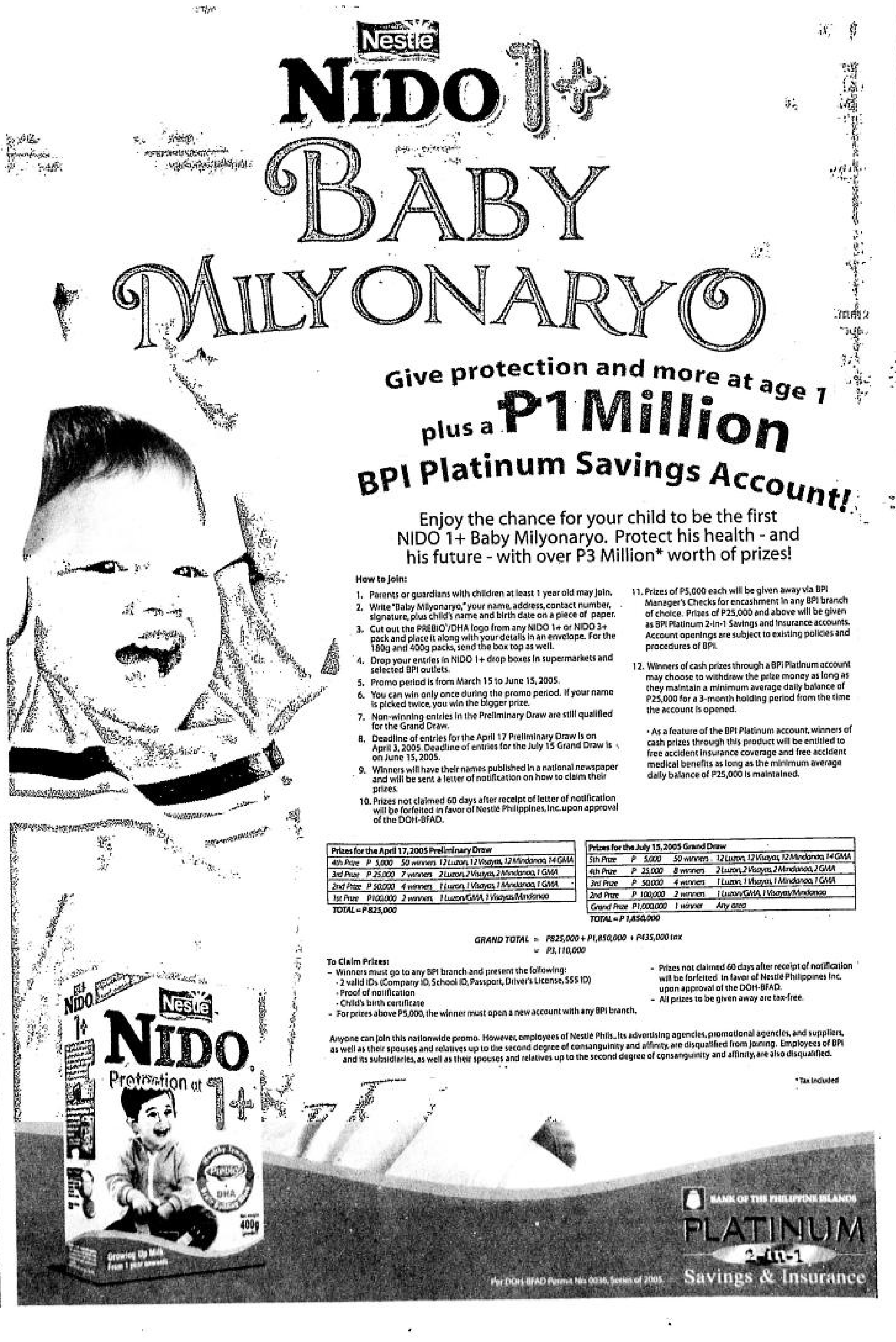
LOBBY

Summer art sale

METRO Gallery is having its annual Summer Art Sale. On sale are oils, pastels, watercolors, charcoals and mixed media by Hermes Alegre, Jun Martinez, J. Elizalde Navarro, Nena Saguil, Jovito Andres, Ferdinand Montemayor, Tam Austria, Philip Badon, Oscar Salita, Rody Herrera, Manuel Rodriguez Sr. (the father of Philippine printmaking), Romeo Tabuena, Manuel Baldemor and Prudencio Lamarroza.

The Metro Gallery is at 455 P. Guevarra St. (beside Café Isabel), San Juan, Metro Manila; 7256751, 0917-8115399, 0927-5335170.

OILS, pastels, watercolors, charcoals and mixed media are on sale.



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How to Join:

1. Parents or guardians with children at least 1 year old may join.
2. Write "Baby Milyonaryo," your name, address, contact number, signature, plus child's name and birth date on a piece of paper.
3. Cut out the PREBIO®/DHA logo from any NIDO 1+ or NIDO 3+ pack and place it along with your details in an envelope. For the 180g and 400g packs, send the box top as well.
4. Drop your entries in NIDO 1+ drop boxes in supermarkets and selected BPI outlets.
5. Promo period is from March 15 to June 15, 2005.
6. You can win only once during the promo period. If your name is picked twice, you win the bigger prize.
7. Non-winning entries in the Preliminary Draw are still qualified for the Grand Draw.
8. Deadline of entries for the April 17 Preliminary Draw is on April 3, 2005. Deadline of entries for the July 15 Grand Draw is on June 15, 2005.
9. Winners will have their names published in a national newspaper and will be sent a letter of notification on how to claim their prizes.
10. Prizes not claimed 60 days after receipt of letter of notification will be forfeited in favor of Nestlé Philippines, Inc. upon approval of the DOH-BFAD.
11. Prizes of P5,000 each will be given away via BPI Manager's Checks for encashment in any BPI branch of choice. Prizes of P25,000 and above will be given as BPI Platinum 2-in-1 Savings and Insurance accounts. Account openings are subject to existing policies and procedures of BPI.
12. Winners of cash prizes through a BPI Platinum account may choose to withdraw the prize money as long as they maintain a minimum average daily balance of P25,000 for a 3-month holding period from the time the account is opened.

• As a feature of the BPI Platinum account, winners of cash prizes through this product will be entitled to free accident insurance coverage and free accident medical benefits as long as the minimum average daily balance of P25,000 is maintained.

Prizes for the April 17, 2005 Preliminary Draw

4th Prize	P 5,000	50 winners	12 Luzon, 12 Visayas, 12 Mindanao, 14 GMA
3rd Prize	P 25,000	7 winners	2 Luzon, 2 Visayas, 2 Mindanao, 1 GMA
2nd Prize	P 50,000	4 winners	1 Luzon, 1 Visayas, 1 Mindanao, 1 GMA
1st Prize	P100,000	2 winners	1 Luzon/GMA, 1 Visayas/Mindanao

TOTAL = P825,000

Prizes for the July 15, 2005 Grand Draw

5th Prize	P 5,000	50 winners	12 Luzon, 12 Visayas, 12 Mindanao, 14 GMA
4th Prize	P 25,000	8 winners	2 Luzon, 2 Visayas, 2 Mindanao, 2 GMA
3rd Prize	P 50,000	4 winners	1 Luzon, 1 Visayas, 1 Mindanao, 1 GMA
2nd Prize	P 100,000	2 winners	1 Luzon/GMA, 1 Visayas/Mindanao
Grand Prize	P1,000,000	1 winner	Any area

TOTAL = P 1,850,000

GRAND TOTAL = P825,000 + P1,850,000 + P435,000 tax
= P3,110,000

To Claim Prizes:
- Winners must go to any BPI branch and present the following:
  - 2 valid IDs (Company ID, School ID, Passport, Driver's License, SSS ID)
  - Proof of notification
  - Child's birth certificate
- For prizes above P5,000, the winner must open a new account with any BPI branch.
- Prizes not claimed 60 days after receipt of notification will be forfeited in favor of Nestlé Philippines Inc. upon approval of the DOH-BFAD.
- All prizes to be given away are tax-free.

Anyone can join this nationwide promo. However, employees of Nestlé Phils., its advertising agencies, promotional agencies, and suppliers, as well as their spouses and relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity and affinity, are disqualified from joining. Employees of BPI and its subsidiaries, as well as their spouses and relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity and affinity, are also disqualified.

*Tax included

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0036, Series of 2005

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Award-winning young cellist returns

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

FROM MANILA to Michigan and on to Florida, Indiana and France, cellist Victor Michael Coo has won seven competitions and special prizes since he got the top prize of the National Music Competition for Young Artists (NAMCYA) at the age of 14 in 1996.

Last year, he won at the MasterWorks Festival, Winona Lake, Indiana.

But the young cellist doesn't only shine as a soloist but also as chamber musician. In 2003, in another festival in Fontainebleau, France, Coo got a special Chamber Music Prize performing with the Kodaly Duo.

Now pursuing his Master of Music in cello performance at the University of Maryland, Coo has won in all concerto competitions in anyd school or festival hea participated in. While still in high school, he won his first cello competition in the United States at the Interlochen Camp in Michigan. He also won in Lynn University in Florida, where he enrolled on full scholarship.

He was soloist of the World Youth Orchestra interpreting the Saint-Saens cello concerto and soloist of the Lynn Philharmonia in Florida playing the complete Elgar Concerto. For the New England Youth Ensemble, he was soloist in the Haydn D Major Concerto.

Debut at 16

Coo debuted in Manila at 16 with the Manila Youth Symphony Orchestra playing the first movement of the C Major Haydn Concerto.

Now the big news is Coo is returning to Manila next month. He will be soloist in the Dvorak cello concerto with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra under Rodel Colmenar on June 12. Pianist Oliver Salonga is soloist in the Liszt Piano Concerto on the same evening.

How does he feel about his first Dvorak in Manila?

o

Coo told the INQUIRER: "I am actually very excited because this is one of the best written and best loved concertos written for the cello and is also a symphonic work on its own. The orchestral portion is very much part of the beauty of the concerto."

He couldn't remember when he first heard the cello concerto. It could have been the time his brother (pianist Jonathan Coo) came home from the US in 1997 with Yo Yo Ma's compact disc of cello concertos.

At the time, he had been studying the cello for only two years. "When I first heard it," he said, "it felt (like) something beyond my comprehension, even beyond my dreams. It is easy to love the concerto but tough learning it. It is demanding not only technically but also requires endurance since it is a huge work.

"The orchestral part is magnanimous so the cellist also has to worry about cutting through all of that."

Ma's fan

C

Other cellists he enjoys listening to are Seven Isserlis for his warm sound and the late Jacqueline Du Pre for her musical instinct.

A graduate of the Philippine High School for the Arts, Coo talked about leaving home for further studies: "Leaving home is exciting, challenging but also intimidating. It is a challenge because one has to experience both success and disappointments. So one has to be really determined in what he is doing. It can be intimidating when there are many other good musicians. But it's really all about perspective. In most cases, I'm just excited to meet other musicians and to work with them."

After his performance with the MPO, Coo will have a national tour before going back to the US.

Call 09187376901 or call Music News at tel. 9017156.

> Victor Michael Coo doesn't only shine as a soloist but also as chamber musician

VICTOR Michael Coo, cellist

Here and there

Pasigueños with very little exposure to orchestral music heard their first Mozart concerto at the Pasig Museum last Sunday with the opening of the 4th Pasig Summer Music Festival. The soloist was 12-year-old Inna Montesclaros, first prize winner of three national music competitions, including NAMCYA.

Playing the orchestra part on the second piano was Montesclaros' mentor, Cecile Basilio-Roxas. The young musician was impressive on the first movement, specially in the rendering of the first cadenza. But the heat in the museum (it is under renovation) was probably too much for her, and the last two movements seemed like a tough fight for survival.

But Mozart in an intimate setting was something else, and the summer heat didn't quite diminish the audience's enthusiasm. The kid was a trooper even in her sweat-drenched gown, and hearing a Mozart concerto from a 12-year-old soloist was still a big treat for Pasigueños.

Former Pasig City Vice-Mayor Lorna Bernardo, who helped keep the festival alive for two years, was absent.

Basic guitar course offered

AN EASY course on basic guitar for children and adults (10 years old and above) will be conducted May 3-28 at the University Hotel, University of the Philippines campus, Diliman, Quezon City.

Classes will be held 1-3 p.m., Tuesdays and Fridays.

Pop-jazz guitarist Jco Razon will conduct the course. Razon, who has performed in various places here and abroad, has been teaching guitar for many years since his return to the country after stints in Korea and other Asian countries.

Call 4754024 or 0919-3699903.

Book on faith and culture

MANY Chinese-Filipino Catholics seem to live in two worlds. Is there any way for their Catholic faith and their Chinese culture to meet and enrich one another?

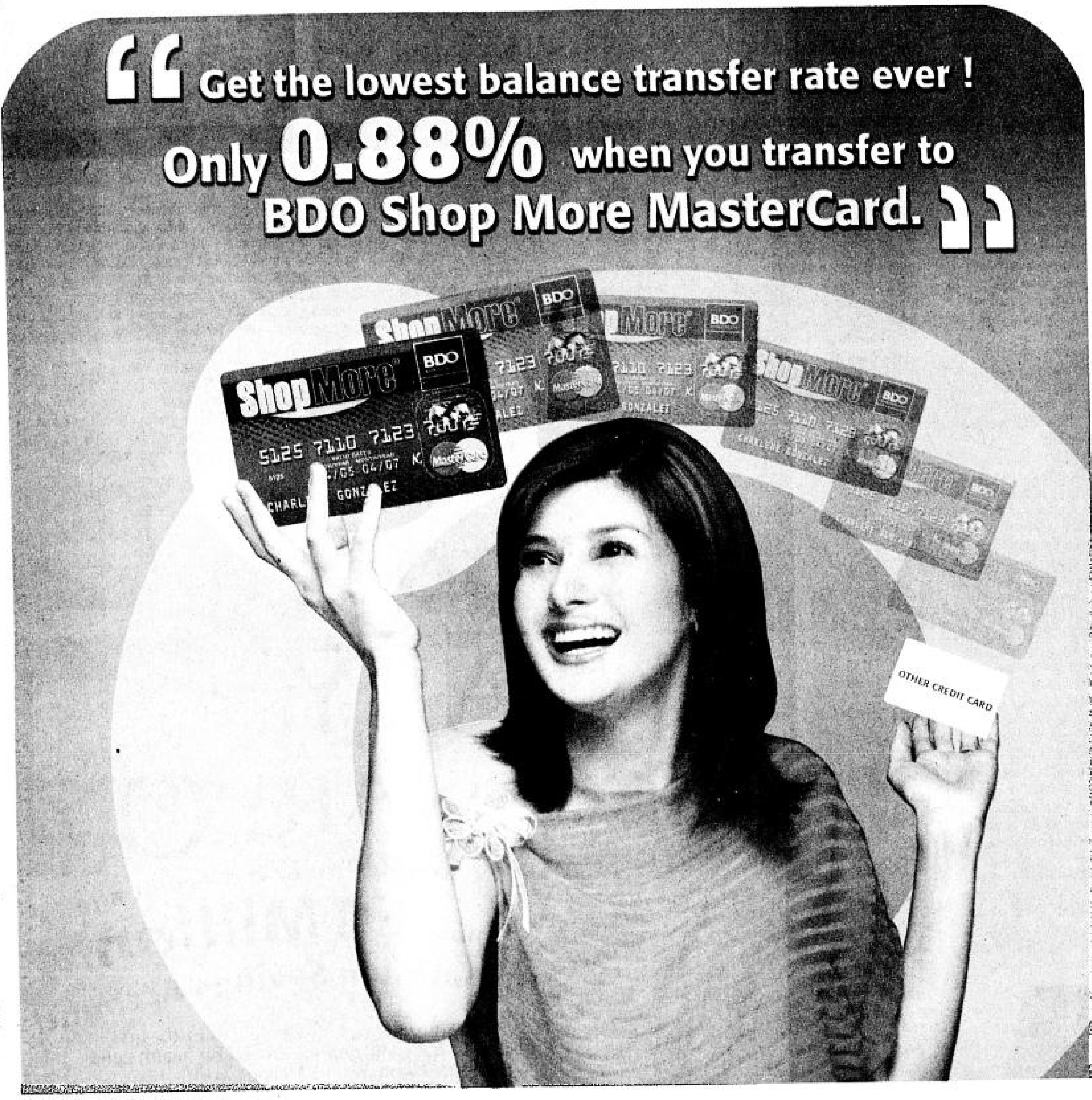
This is the question that Fr. Aristotle Dy, SJ, explores in his new book, "Building a Bridge." The book continues the reflections begun in Fr. Dy's previous book, "Weaving A Dream," inspired by the call for inculturation in the Second Vatican Council.

In "Building A Bridge," Fr. Dy shares his recent reflections on being a Chinese Filipino Catholic, infused with insights from his life as a Jesuit priest.

Fr. Dy contemplates how the Catholic faith can understand and accept the lunar Chinese new year festival, and traces the history of the Chinese apostolate in the Philippines. Fr. Dy also explores Chinese Christology, grace in Chinese Buddhism and asks whether the tradition of ancestor worship can be understood through the Catholic belief in the communion of saints. He also offers some pastoral suggestions for integrating Chinese customs with Catholic life and practice.

For the faithful to be whole, their faith and culture must come together. And for their faith and culture to meet, one must build a bridge. Fr. Dy's book lays the groundwork for that most important meeting.

Both books are available at Tanging Yaman stores at Ateneo de Manila University in Loyola Heights, QC; SM Megamall, SM North Edsa and leading bookstores nationwide. Call 4265971 to 72.



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Cafe Sol at Terrazas de Punta Fuego
Nasugbu, Batangas

After 15 years, Landco Pacific is riding high and charging…

FULL SPEED AHEAD!

IN a sea pounded by wave after wave of market shifts and unpredictable economic climate, maverick property developer Landco Pacific never wavered in 15 years, remaining steady at the helm to bring the company right on course. Riding on the upwind and manned by a champion crew, Landco Pacific is all set to sail and race, aggressively and decisively, for richer territories and new lands.

Standing, left: Alby Xerez-Burgos, VP and SBU Head of Leisure Farms; Arlene G. Magtibay, VP and SBU Head of Shopping Centers and CBDs; Rollie T. Manalili, VP and SBU Head of First Homes; Francis V. Ceballos, EVP and COO; Alfred Xerez-Burgos, Jr., President and CEO; Seated, left: Cris M. Zuluaga, VP and SBU Head of Memorial Parks; Ellen B. Maristela, VP and SBU Head of First Homes; and Pat A. Villano, VP and SBU Head of Residential Resorts.

15 YEARS
LANDCO PACIFIC
CORPORATION

Landco Pacific continues to push the limits of creativity by being an innovator in real estate development.

With six dynamic business units turning the rudders, Landco Pacific steered steadily, driven by the single-minded goal of improving its financial performance. In 2004, a year earlier than it had projected, the company returned to a stable platform and achieved an enviable zero debt level. A decade and a half into its vision, the coast is clear for Landco Pacific to chart a brave route towards unrelenting success in the coming years.

The company envisions more than just creating fireworks in the industry, but ultimately attaining critical mass. The next five years will see the setting off of a significant chain reaction in each SBU, bringing about sustainable growth, as they accumulate adequate cash flow and product inventory. These pocket explosions will catapult Landco Pacific into the field of the majors, in size and importance.

"We are known as a niche player strong in creating very upscale, boutique developments. We will leverage that distinction to participate in the industry in a much, much bigger way," boasts Francis V. Ceballos, EVP and COO.

Redefining tourism

Every cog in the machine of the Landco ship is grinding heavily into full gear, threatening to create big waves with every passing. Part of the evolving thrust of the company is to pilot the organization of the tourism sector. Setting its sights first on the beach town of Calatagan, Landco Pacific will lay the groundwork for a world-class, lifestyle-oriented tourism estate that will bear all the signature elements of the company's landmark residential resort communities. The master plan integrates day trip resorts, hotels, shopping centers, dining and entertainment hubs into the locale's existing natural and cultural attractions.

From Calatagan, Landco together with Metro Pacific is eyeing the island of Cebu as the next exciting flagship initiative in the tourism sector.

Having literally given birth to the residential resort market segment, Landco Pacific still leaves no stone unturned in its search for new ideas that will take lifestyles to the next level. After providing Metro Manila's elite with an unparalleled experience of exclusive seaside living, the company is now looking to tap a segment that desires the same resort home experience without the commitment of building and maintaining a home. Scheduled to launch in July is a first of its kind: Amara Luxury Ocean Apartments, cradled on the hillsides of Terrazas de Punta Fuego, offering absolutely unobstructed views of the South China Sea. An evolution of the residential resort product, Amara is sure to seal Landco Pacific's domination of the leisure market.

Completing the Punta Fuego lifestyle package is a world-class marina to begin operations in the second quarter of the year. The most modern and state-of-the-art marina along the Batangas coastline, the South Marina at the Peninsula de Punta Fuego will include a full array of facilities and the elegant Marina Yacht Club.

Planting the seeds of *agritainment*

The hobby farming category was a no man's land up until Landco Pacific discovered it. While copycat projects are only now finding their way through this newfound territory, Landco's Leisure Farms unit is moving towards further enriching the farming experience with another pioneering concept—agritainment. Agritainment, a term coined by Landco, comes from "agriculture" plus "entertainment" referring to "entertaining farm enterprises." In other words, it is farming made fun, leisurely, and hassle-free.

Combining the latest farming technologies and specialist knowledge and applications, agritainment offers an extremely valuable and new way of looking at agriculture sciences. A series of demo farms and activity centers, such as an earthworm farm, herb garden, an organic integrated model farm, hybrids farm and coffee farm is already set up at Leisure Farms in Lemery, Batangas to give homeowners and visitors alike a venue for learning about and appreciating nature.

The success of Leisure Farms attests to the growing readiness of the market for uniquely different second home experiences. Ponderosa Leisure Farms, with its positioning as a flower garden community with resort amenities has proven to be just the answer to this craving, so much so that a 16.7-hectare expansion has been planned. The new phase will offer smaller lot cuts carrying the same concept of the original flower garden community.

Spurring commerce where it is needed

Landco's strong regional presence will be bolstered with a number of shopping centers to be developed in the next five years. A ₱200M investment is being poured in to expand the Bicol region's foremost commercial center, the Pacific Mall Legazpi.

In Naga City, Landco is set to begin construction of a business district and integrated shopping mall. Covering a total of 12 hectares, the Naga City CBD is expected to become a major urban center in Camarines Sur.

Additional new commercial complex projects are also being eyed south and north of the country, extending further Landco Pacific's overarching participation in regional development and commerce.

Deepening its foothold in memorial parks

Like a well-oiled, extremely-coordinated fleet, Landco Pacific's overall strategy of success rests on creative diversity. The company will continue with even more vigor its strategic pursuit to develop nature-themed perpetual care memorial parks in various central provincial locations. Forest Lake, its banner brand, already has six parks in its stable, with a new one in Cagayan de Oro in the offing this year. A joint venture with the Golez family, Forest Lake Cagayan de Oro will carry on the winning formula that has become the Forest Lake signature— non-traditional, amenity-filled parks that are in sync with the community's natural environs, giving rise to popular sanctuaries for meditation and family recreation.

Taking lifestyles to the next level

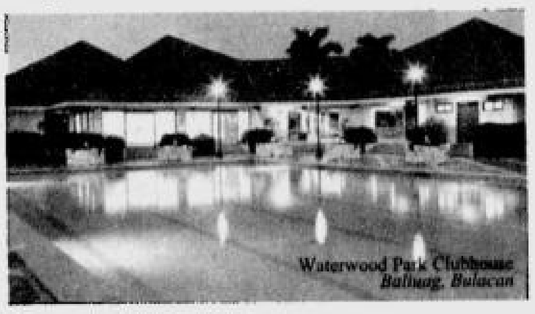
The list of first-home residential subdivisions bearing the inimitable Landco blue-label imprint continues to grow longer, with community concepts that elevate lifestyle standards and experiences. Nueva Ecija's first and only world-class golf course, the Lakewood Golf and Country Club launched this March, has added a new prestige and distinction not only to Lakewood homeowners, but to Novo Ecijanos in general.

A joint venture with the prominent Escudero clan, owner of the vast Escudero estates in Laguna, has made it possible for Landco to envision a new-generation, first of its kind, masterplanned, hybrid development in San Pablo, Laguna that integrates residential, leisure, tourism, and commercial components. "San Pablo represents for us an exciting development. We're looking to revolutionize the landscape of the town, with elements that will address the needs of both the upscale segment and the OFWs," enthuses Ceballos. Slated to launch in the last quarter of the year, the San Pablo development will give residents a taste of hacienda living, well-suited to the rustic and laidback San Pablo setting. Bucolic meets modern, it is yet another exciting development to showcase new and revolutionary lifestyle options.

Going on to its next 5 years, Landco Pacific is still very much running on full blast, racing relentlessly to bring to life new and unmatched lifestyles. "Through exhaustive market research and uncanny intuition, Landco determines what the market needs and what the market wants and we develop the product often, even before our buyers realize that they want it," asserts Ceballos.

It is this imaginative foresight and maverick vision that has allowed the company to push past the competition fiercely and unremittingly, with one original concept after another. "Landco is going full speed ahead, with no let-up. We aim to achieve a sustainable mix of markets, products and sales, to a point where there will be no stopping us," beams Alfred Xerez-Burgos, Jr., President and CEO. With the best helmsmen aboard the Landco ship, aided by a fighting crew and riding high on the momentum of its 15 years, Landco Pacific takes to the waters to chart an even more victorious course in its history.

Clubhouse at Leisure Farms
Lemery, Batangas



Waterwood Park Clubhouse
Baliuag, Bulacan

Casa Ponderosa at Po
Silang, Cavite

Living And Loving

Excitement, inspiration, and creativity are key elements that make up a dream lifestyle. As an outstanding innovator in the real estate industry, Landco Pacific continues to create unique lifestyle products that enhance and uplift the standard of living of its customers. Here are inspiring experiences, as shared by some of its many happy homeowners and clients.

PENINSULA DE PUNTA FUEGO

Amid the rustle of stately trees and the invariable rise and ebb of the ocean, Lilia Abad Santos has built what she calls her own private paradise. "The natural landscape of Punta Fuego so inspired us that we wanted as much of nature to be a part of our home."

Lower Beach Club at Peninsula de Punta Fuego
Nasugbu, Batangas

Lilia and husband Eric's house has majestic views of the ocean and a free-flowing layout that invites as much sunlight and breeze inside their abode. "I feel safe in my house, as if I'm in a cocoon that protects me from the outside world," she says smilingly.

Outside her sanctuary, she indulges in the five-star amenities of this world-class community to pamper her senses and revitalize her body. Yet, it is her solitary encounters with Punta Fuego's inherent beauty that give her the most pleasurable experiences. "Whenever I'm in Punta Fuego, I take long swims in any of its 12 beautiful coves. I also love the long walks by the sea because it gives me peace of mind just being so close to nature. That is why I cannot really put my feet up and stay long in another place – wherever I am, I can always hear Peninsula de Punta Fuego calling me. Of course, I always heed the call."

Lilia Abad Santos

LEISURE FARMS

After spending most of his life working in the city as President and CEO of Philam Plans, Jess Hofileña felt a gnawing need to have a change of landscape – preferably a skyline of trees in exchange of the vertical monoliths crowding the metro's imperceptible horizon. "The city is not a great place to spend time in," he says. "I just want to have a little farm."

Jess found his version of paradise in Leisure Farms in Lemery, Batangas. Built with the weekend farmer and hobbyist in mind, Leisure Farms quietly espouses a simple lifestyle, a back-to-basics philosophy that finds its expression in tilling the land and communing with nature. "It's the perfect place. It is not too far away from the city, but far enough to get the feel of being in the countryside," he says.

PACIFIC MALL

On any given weekday Ana Marie Pamela Arcangel, or Pambi, is wont to stay indoors, cocooned in her office where she diligently performs her many querulous tasks as sales director in the Legazpi City office of a distinguished property developmen company. On weekends, however, she exchanges her power suit for a more casual outfit and heads to Pacifi Mall.

Inside the mall, Pambi and her family d some serious shopping. "The mix of merchandise inside Pacific Mall just gives shoppers a host of wonderful options. The supermarket, for instance, offers more choices as far as grocery items are

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STONECREST

As founder of her own dynamic line of beauty businesses, Emily Calderon realized that she needed a living space that will allow her to keep in touch with the pulse of the market and new industry trends, yet give her enough elbow room to recharge her energy and stimulate her creative juices. That mid-spot she delightfully found in Stonecrest in San Pedro – an ideal suburban address nestled between the gateway to the metro and Laguna's rich and verdant landscape. Here, the Calderons built a Mediterranean-inspired home with an impressive cathedral ceiling and elongated windows to show as much of Stonecrest's lush greens and gently-sloping terrain. "My husband and I fell in love with Stonecrest the first time we saw it. Here, I feel so close to nature because of the trees and greenery, and the climate which is so pleasantly cool and breezy. What's really attractive about Stonecrest is that no matter how serene the place is, it's not really far at all but just near the urban area!" Emily exclaims. The Calderons also take pride in Stonecrest's excellent recreational and social facilities such as the clubhouse, swimming pool, football field, and basketball and tennis courts.

Stonecrest
San Pedro, Laguna

"More importantly, Stonecrest's well-planned and peaceful surroundings foster good and happy relationships with the rest of the community. We have very close ties with our neighbors and do a lot of activities together," she tells happily.

Emily enjoys a mean game of badminton and lengthy leisure walks in the village with neighbor, Gigi Roberto. On a clear day, her husband Peter enjoys a round at the fairways, or simply engages in intellectual banter over cold beer with Gen. Chester Ebuen. Otherwise, these best of buds can be found tinkering in their gardens – perhaps to seal their bond of friendship and assure themselves that Stonecrest will remain evergreen and ever fresh.

Emily Calderon

Making Waves In The Industry All These

1990

Landco is founded as a consultant and general managing firm for some of the biggest and most respected real estate developers in the Philippines. The company began overseeing the planning and management of an estimated 80 development projects nationwide.

MAJOR CONSULTANCY PROJECTS:

- ▶ Tutuban Center, Divisoria
- ▶ Sta. Lucia East Commercial Center
- ▶ Smokey Mountain Reclamation Development
- ▶ Fort Bonifacio Consortium Bid
- ▶ Lippo Village, Jakarta

1994

Landco evolves into a full-fledged real estate developer and forges an alliance with Metro Pacific Corporation. As an originator of industry firsts, Landco started its first project, Canyon Woods Residential Resort and revolutionized the second home industry. Since then, Landco has sold over Php15 Billion worth of real estate.

PROJECTS:

- ▶ Canyon Woods, Laurel, Batangas
- ▶ Ridgewood Park Nature Estates Lucena, Quezon

1996

In true maverick fashion, Landco launches another original: Peninsula de Punta Fuego, the first seaside residential resort in the Philippines. An exclusive, world-class seaside community along the coast of Nasugbu, Batangas, it has since become the benchmark for a seaside residential resort.

Peninsula de Punta Fuego
Nasugbu, Batangas

PROJECTS:

- ▶ Peninsula de Punta Fuego, Nasugbu Batangas
- ▶ Waterwood Park, Baliuag, Bulacan

1997

PROJECTS:

- ▶ Lakewood City, Cabanatuan Nueva Ecija
- ▶ Stonecrest, San Pedro, Laguna
- ▶ Forest Lake, Zamboanga

1998

PROJECTS:

- ▶ NE Pacific Mall, Cabanatuan Nueva Ecija
- ▶ Forest Lake, Iloilo

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Living And Lovin

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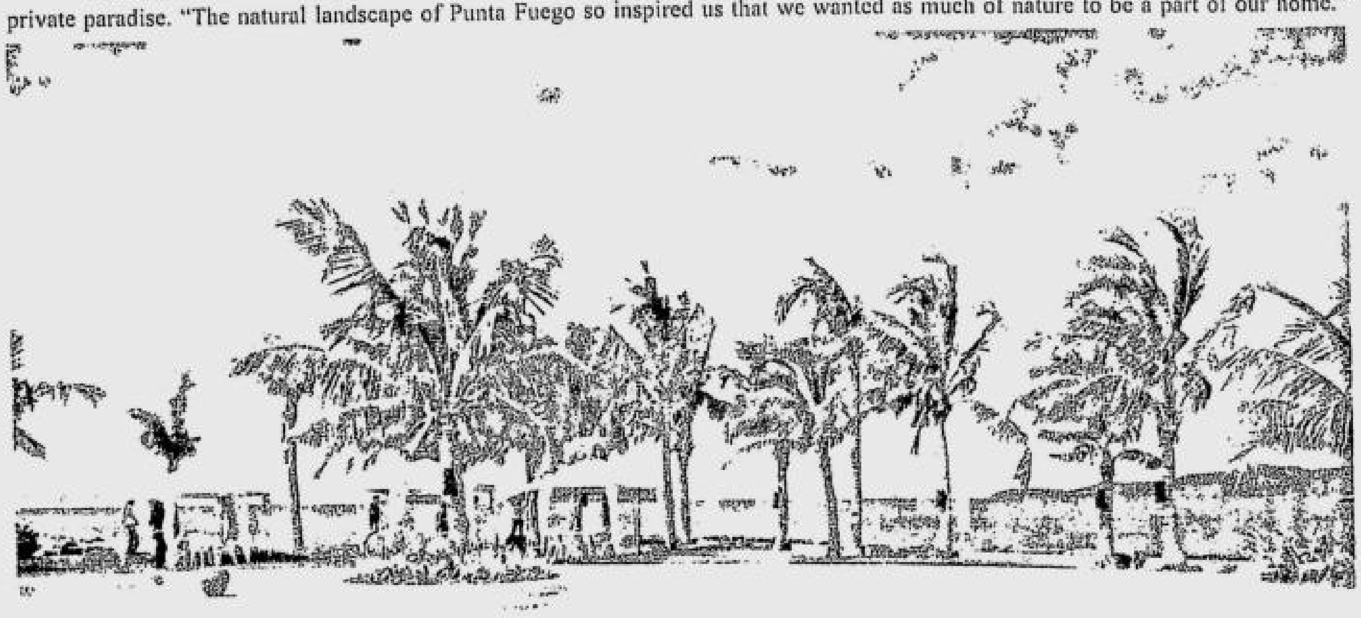

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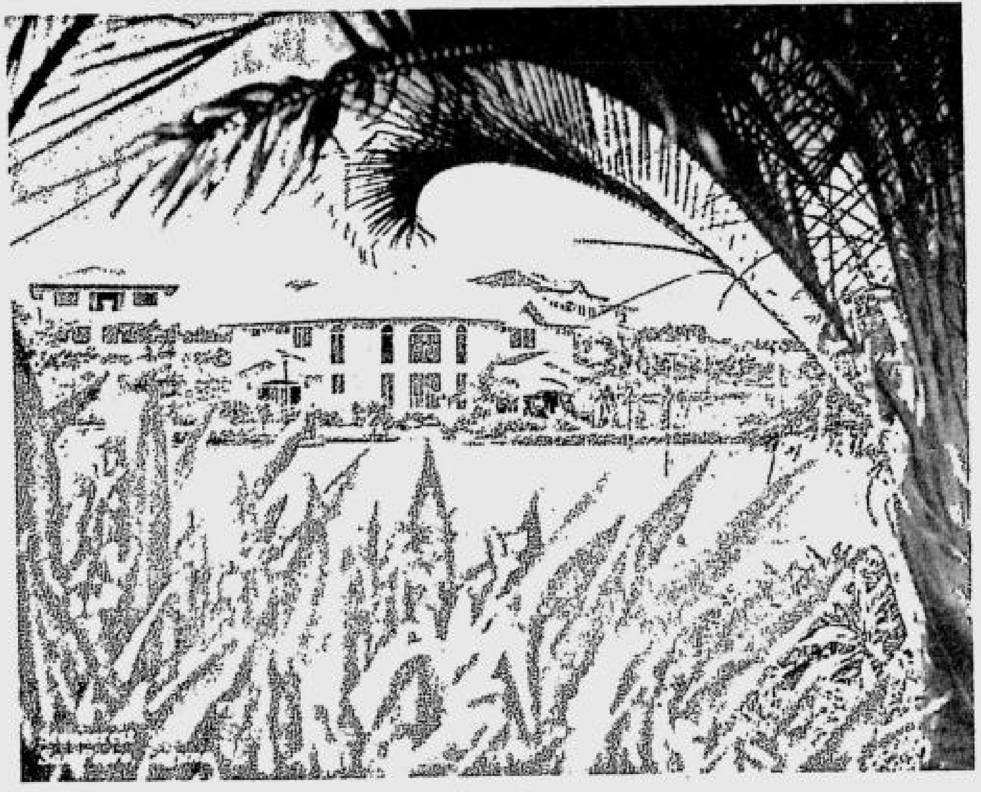
STONECREST

As founder of her own dynamic line of beauty businesses, Emily Calderon realized that she needed a living space that will allow her to keep in touch with the pulse of the market and new industry trends, yet give her enough elbow room to recharge her energy and stimulate her creative juices. That mid-spot she delightfully found in Stonecrest in San Pedro – an ideal suburban address nestled between the gateway to the metro and Laguna's rich and verdant landscape. Here, the Calderons built a Mediterranean-inspired home with an impressive cathedral ceiling and elongated windows to show as much of Stonecrest's lush greens and gently-sloping terrain. "My husband and I fell in love with Stonecrest the first time we saw it. Here, I feel so close to nature because of the trees and greenery, and the climate which is so pleasantly cool and breezy. What's really attractive about Stonecrest is that no matter how serene the place is, it's not really far at all but just near the urban area!" Emily exclaims. The Calderons also take pride in Stonecrest's excellent recreational and social facilities such as the clubhouse, swimming pool, football field, and basketball and tennis courts.



"More importantly, Stonecrest's well-planned and peaceful surroundings foster good and happy relationships with the rest of the community. We have very close ties with our neighbors and do a lot of activities together," she tells happily.

Emily enjoys a mean game of badminton and lengthy leisure walks in the village with neighbor, Gigi Roberto. On a clear day, her husband Peter enjoys a round at the fairways, or simply engages in intellectual banter over cold beer with Gen. Chester Ebuen. Otherwise, these best of buds can be found tinkering in their gardens – perhaps to seal their bond of friendship and assure themselves that Stonecrest will remain evergreen and ever fresh.

Emily Calderon

Making Waves In The Industry All Thes

1990

Landco is founded as a consultant and general managing firm for some of the biggest and most respected real estate developers in the Philippines. The company began overseeing the planning and management of an estimated 80 development projects nationwide.

MAJOR CONSULTANCY PROJECTS:

- Tutuban Center, Divisoria
- Sta. Lucia East Commercial Center
- Smokey Mountain Reclamation Development
- Fort Bonifacio Consortium Bid
- Lippo Village, Jakarta

1994

Landco evolves into a full-fledged real estate developer and forges an alliance with Metro Pacific Corporation. As an originator of industry firsts, Landco started its first project, Canyon Woods Residential Resort and revolutionized the second home industry. Since then, Landco has sold over Php15 Billion worth of real estate.

PROJECTS:

- Canyon Woods, Laurel, Batangas
- Ridgewood Park Nature Estates Lucena, Quezon

1996

In true maverick fashion, Landco launches another original: Peninsula de Punta Fuego, the first seaside residential resort in the Philippines. An exclusive, world-class seaside community along the coast of Nasugbu, Batangas, it has since become the benchmark for a seaside residential resort.

Peninsula de Punta Fuego
Nasugbu, Batangas

PROJECTS:

- Peninsula de Punta Fuego, Nasugb Batangas
- Waterwood Park, Baliuag, Bulacan

1997

PROJECTS:

- Lakewood City, Cabanatuan Nueva Ecija
- Stonecrest, San Pedro, Laguna
- Forest Lake, Zamboanga

1998

PROJECTS:

- NE Pacific Mall, Cabanatuan Nueva Ecija
- Forest Lake, Iloilo

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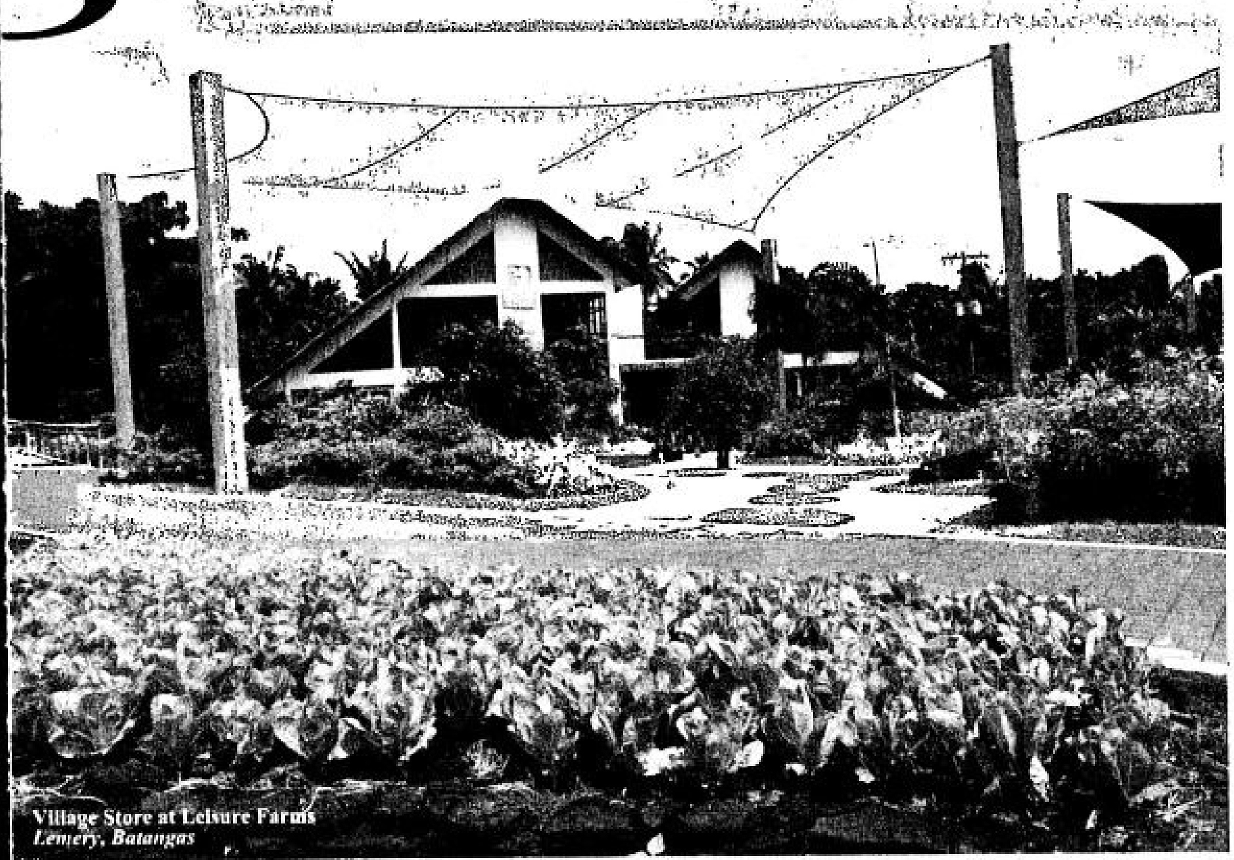
CORPORATION



Village Store at Leisure Farms
Lemery, Batangas

Jess Uofileño & daughter Annie

With his wife Cielo and daughter Annie, Jess sees himself working the land and growing things with his bare hands. "I plan to grow veggies or small crops, but it's not going to be for commercial use, maybe just enough to sustain our needs. Knowing my wife, she will offer the vegetables to our neighbors, friends, and relatives," he relates with amusement. His wife Cielo is especially excited at the prospect of building their house next to a row of coconut trees so they can just pick the coconuts from their windows. "I don't know if that's even possible but you see this is how she feels about the place," Jess says. "There's actually a feeling of having a healthy bone."

concerned. You see, this is such a blessing for me because I love to cook. Now, I get to buy the ingredients I need for my home-cooked recipes without having to wait for my next visit to Manila," Pambi waxes enthusiastic. She is equally fascinated at the mall's selection of fashionable must-buys. "I do my clothes shopping in Pacific Mall because of the variety of styles and brands I can choose from. My children, on the other hand, can buy the latest trends in wearables from the mall's Shopper's Lane," she tells. What's even more attractive, Pambi notes, is that the prices of merchandise at Pacific Mall do not threaten to put a dent on her budget.

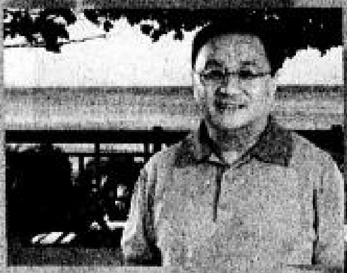
More than a great shopping haunt, Pambi sees Pacific Mall as the ultimate fun and leisure destination that incorporates the latest concepts in commercial developments. She remarks, "There is always something happening in Pacific Mall to entertain and educate the public – be it a fashion show, an art exhibit, or a crafts and hobby fair. It has become a landmark venue that encourages the whole family to bond and spend quality time together. Now, that is priceless!"

PACIFIC MALL
PACIFIC MALL

Pacific Mall
Lucena City

Steering The Company In The Right Direction

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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President and CEO

Antonio V. Syyap

Francis V. Ceballos

Augusto P. Palisoc

Arlene G. Magtibay

Jose Ma. K. Lim

Edward A. Tortorici

Victor S. Limlingan

Atty. Victoria R. Tamayao

Years

1999

PROJECTS:

- ▶ Woodside Garden Village, Urdaneta Pangasinan
- ▶ Pacific Heights, Cebu

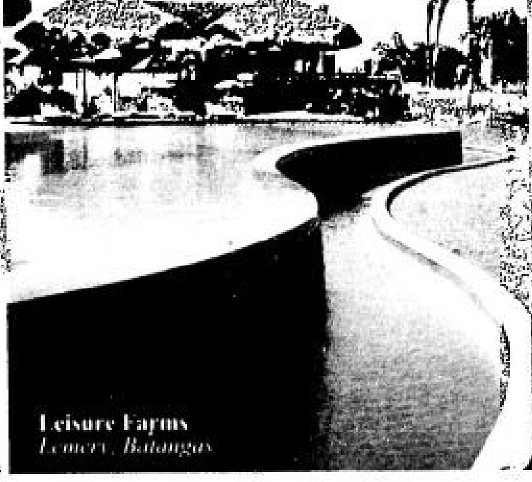
2000

PROJECT:

- ▶ Forest Lake, Davao

2001

Landco launches the first residential and hobby farming community in the Philippines: Leisure Farms in Lemery, Batangas. Another testament to Landco's inventive ingenuity, Leisure Farms combines the best elements and features of residential resort living and earthy appeal of modern produce farming. A revolutionary concept of hobby-farming and agro-tourism that has spawned an entirely new market segment in the real estate industry.



Leisure Farms
Lemery, Batangas

PROJECT:

- ▶ Leisure Farms, Lemery, Batangas

2002

The success of Peninsula de Punta Fuego paved the way for the highly-acclaimed second phase: Terrazas de Punta Fuego. Terrazas de Punta Fuego is launched and has since taken the seaside residential resort industry by storm.

PROJECTS:

- ▶ Terrazas de Punta Fuego, Nasugbu Batangas
- ▶ Pacific Mall, Legazpi, Albay
- ▶ Forest Lake, Biñan

2003

As a follow-up to the much-copied Leisure Farms, Landco launches another first in the second-home category: Ponderosa Leisure Farms in Silang, Cavite, the first flower garden residential community in the country.

PROJECTS:

- ▶ Ponderosa Leisure Farms, Silang Cavite
- ▶ Pacific Mall, Lucena, Quezon
- ▶ Forest Lake, General Santos City

2004

PROJECT:

- ▶ Forest Lake, Zamboanga

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LANDCO
PACIFIC
CORPORATION

Village Store at Leisure Farms
Lemery, Batangas

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Pacific Mall
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Steering The Company In The Right Direction

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

'ears

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- ▶ Forest Lake, General Santos City

2004

PROJECT:

- ▶ Forest Lake, Zamboanga

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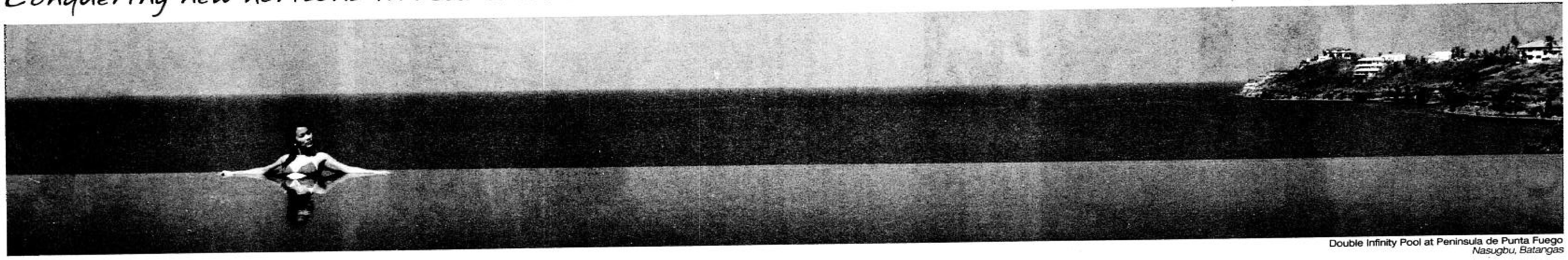
Cultivating fresh lifestyle options

Pick n' Pay at Leisure Farms
Lemery, Batangas

Conquering new horizons in real estate

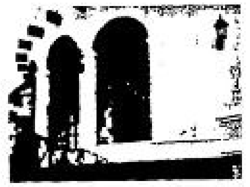


Double Infinity Pool at Peninsula de Punta Fuego
Nasugbu, Batangas

Taking Lifestyles To The Next Level

We at Landco Pacific believe that it takes an unfailing vision and commitment to turn dreams into reality. That's why we never stop developing innovative and original lifestyle concepts that revolutionize the way you live. From premium residential resorts and leisure farms to first-home developments and shopping centers, we keep ourselves primed and ready to deliver the next big thing. **At Landco Pacific, we break new ground so you can put more life in your lifestyle.**

Terrazas de Punta Fuego
Nasugbu, Batangas



Ponderosa Leisure Farms
Silang, Cavite

Stonecrest
San Pedro, Laguna

Woodside Garden Village
Urdaneta, Pangasinan

15 YEARS
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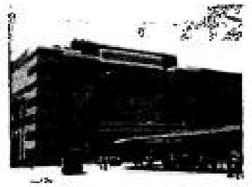
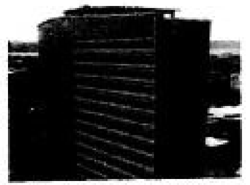
Waterwood Park
Baliuag, Bulacan

Lakewood Golf Estates
Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija



Pacific Mall
Legazpi City • Lucena City • Cabanatuan City



Landco Corporate Center
Davao City